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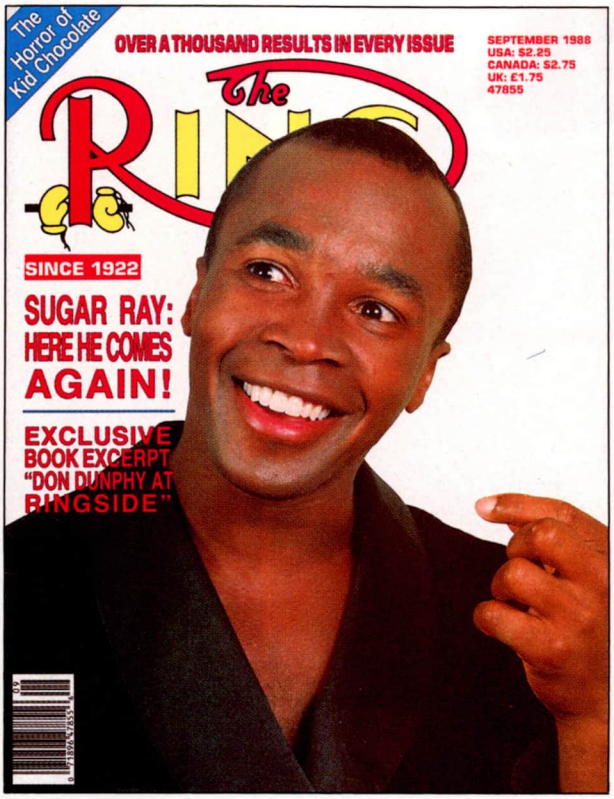

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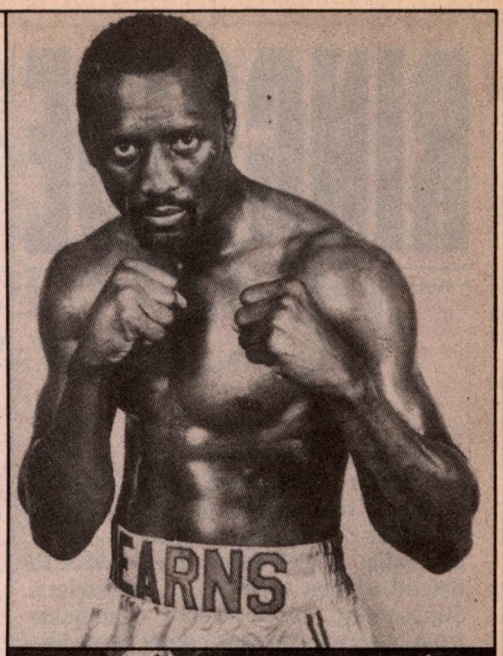

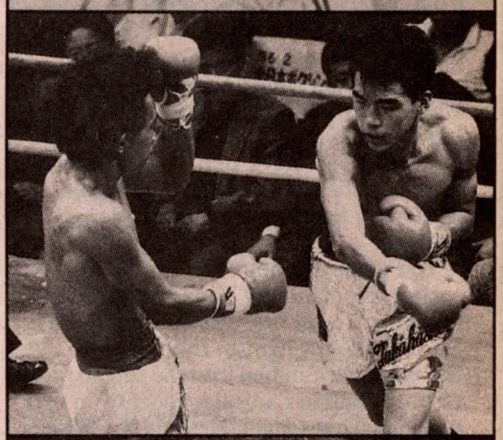

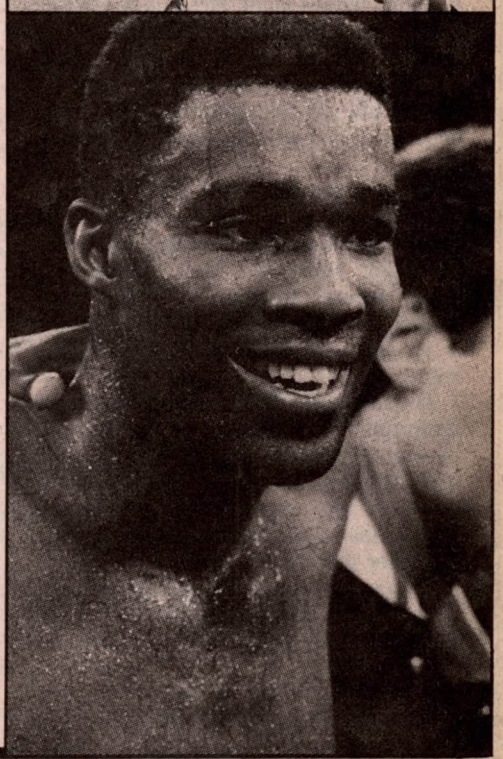

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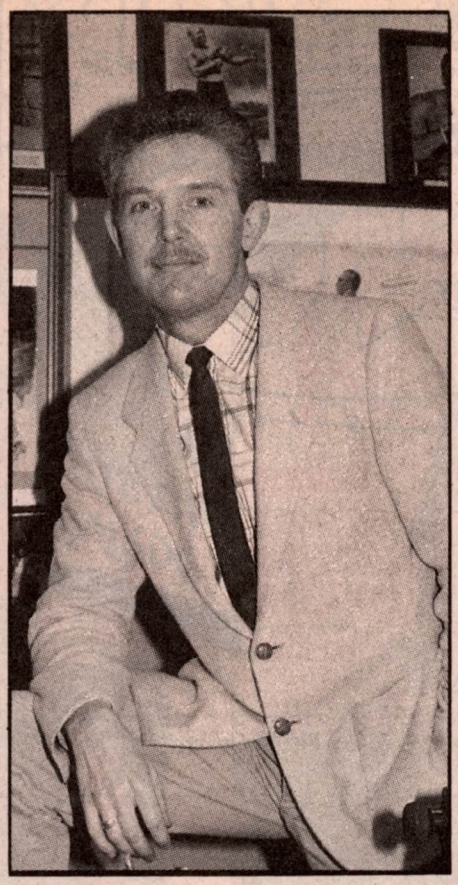

A few words about ratings in general, and one or two of them in particular:

One of the benefits defenders of the Alphabet Boys like to brag about is how governing bodies force title holders to defend against their No. 1 contenders. Supposedly, this prevents champions from ducking worthy contenders; like Dempsey did Harry Wills. (That's the example I hear all the time, anyway.)

Well, if they were all as deserving as Wills, the Alphabet Boys would have a legitimate point. Trouble is, more and more of these guys don't even deserve to be in the top 20. The end result is frequently lousy mismatches and ripped-off fans.

You want examples?

How about Jimmy Navarro? He hadn't fought in a year but was still ranked the No. 1 bantamweight in the world by the IBF when he climbed into the ring to face champ Orlando Canizales recently in San Antonio. That's right, No. 1 in the whole wide world. As expected, Canizales — a murderous puncher with talent to burn — made quick work of the rusty no-hoper, almost decapitating him in the process. Time of knockout: 2:39 of the first.

Isolated incident? Not likely.

A member of the Duva family was recently bemoaning the fact IBF junior welterweight boss Meldrick Taylor was being forced to fight a "mandatory" against top-rated Jong Jung Pacquining, a virtual unknown with no marquee value.

The fact the Filipino's lofty position is ludicrous goes witout saying, but the problem has a gangrenous effect. Instead of furthering his career with significant bouts for big money, budding super star Taylor has to waste time disposing of an imposter for chump change.

Who profits from this kind of charade? Certainly not the paying public. My guess is that somebody just wants to keep the meter running.

I don't just mean to pick on the IBF. All the Alphabet Boys pull the same garbage from time to time. That's why we feel *The Ring*'s ratings are such an important alternative.

You may or may not like our policy of using only the eight traditional weight divisions. And even those of you who back our stance 100 percent won't agree with every ranking, every time. But you can rest assure you'll never find a bozo as one of our No. 1 contenders. Heck, most of *The Ring*'s top contenders hold some sort of so-called world title themselves.

You'll also see something in our ratings this month you won't find in any of the other brands — a fighter ranked in more than one weight class. Of course, this sort of thing, though not unprecedented in *The Ring*, is reserved for special boxers who have proven their ability to beat world-class men in both divisions.

I think we've come up with the perfect boxer to reinstate this intriguing option. The choice is so obvious, I'm sure you'll guess who he is quicker than you can say Sugar Ray.

Nigel Collins

THE RING

March, 1989 Vol LXVIII, No. 1

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BEGINNING WITH NAT FLEISCHER, *THE RING* HAS HAD THE GREATEST BOXING WRITERS IN THE COUNTRY ADDING TO ITS 67-YEAR HISTORY.

THE PRESENT CONTRIBUTORS MORE THAN UPHOLD THAT TRADITION.

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66 REASONS
"THE SUN NEVER SETS ON THE RING"

COME OUT WRITING

COVER CONTROVERSY

I MUST CONFESS MY DISAPPOINTment in the cover of the December 1988 issue of your magazine. As a subscriber to your magazine and a professional fighter myself (Joltin' Jimmy Rouff, eight wins, three losses with six KOs), I can appreciate the physique of a fighter as much as anyone. But the display of Mike Tyson in a protective cup was disgusting. I enjoy looking at pictures of a fighter, but I would prefer not to see his pubic hair.

I feel this would be a suitable picture for the cover of *Playgirl* or some other skin magazine, but certainly not the greatest magazine in the world. I hope to see more tasteful pictures in the future. Thanks.

JIM ROUFF
Reading, PA

I'M SURE SOME OF YOUR READERS didn't approve of the Mike Tyson photo on the cover of your December issue, but I thought it was the best cover *The Ring* ever had. Tyson appears as the ultimate warrior, powerful, nasty and stripped to the basics.

LYDIA WASHINGTON
Somerdale, NJ

ENOUGH WITH TYSON ALREADY! THE incessant feature stories, articles, cover photos, etc. are bad enough, but this month's cover (Dec. '88) is the straw that broke the camel's back. I realize you're likening him to the fighters of old, but you've compromised your long-standing reputation of containing nothing offensive by plastering your cover with Mike Tyson's pubic hairs. I'm on an airplane as I write this and I'm keeping the magazine face down on the seat next to me because I'm embarrassed to let anyone see it. I understand you guys love Tyson and that he sells magazines, but please give it a rest.

TOM MC CAMMON
Ridley Park, PA

PENDLETON BOOSTER

I HAVE NOTHING BUT THE HIGHEST respect for both your almost infallible ratings and your noble and needed attempt to consolidate the weight classes into the traditional categories. But after reading the ratings page in your December '88 issue, I have a complaint. In the lightweight ratings, there is no mention of Freddie Pendleton. Now I certainly would hope that this oversight is due to a desire to include a few of the top junior lightweights somewhere in your ratings. But if the ratings are meant to simply list the 10 best fighters at 135 pounds, then you are saying that *The Ring* believes

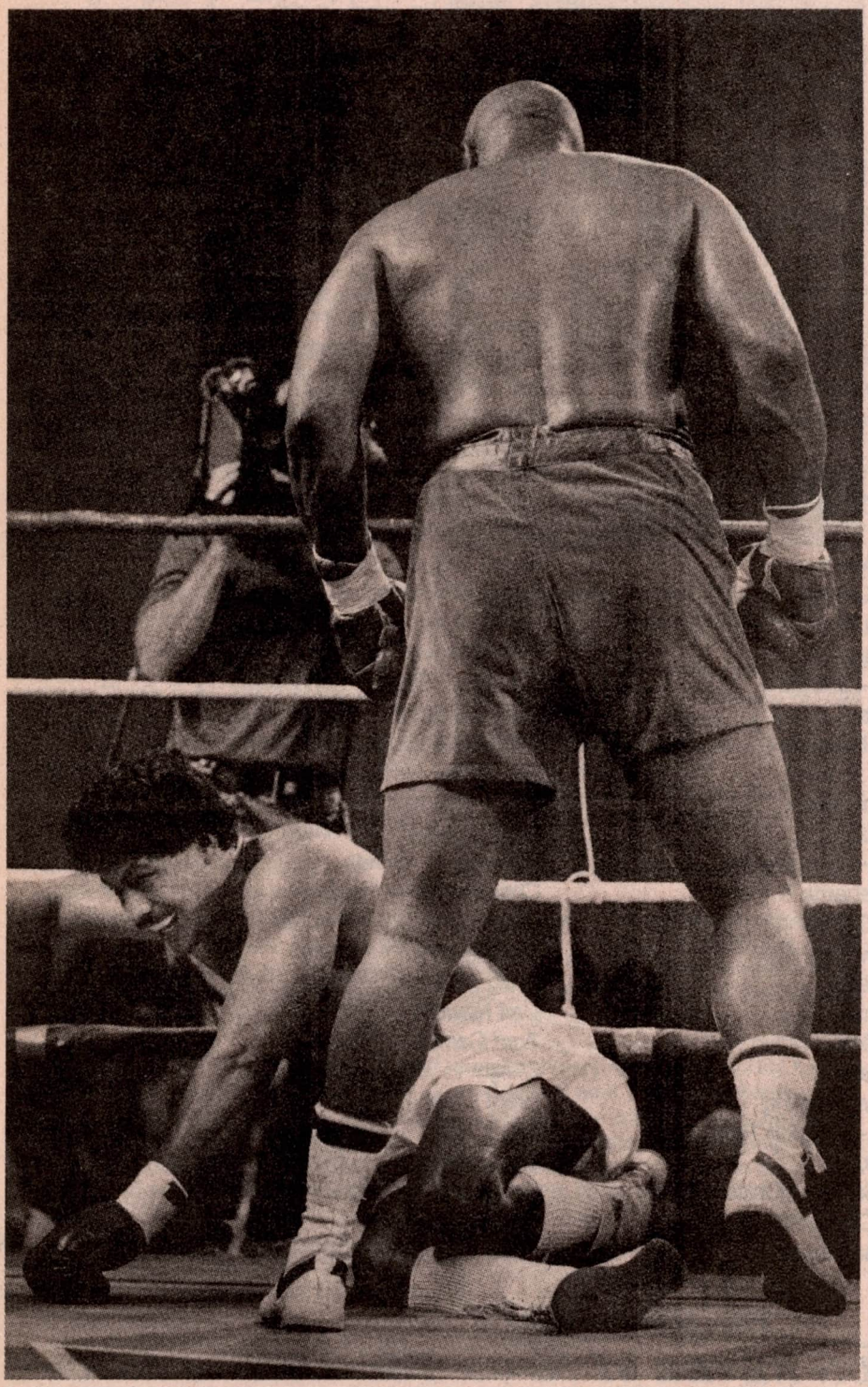


PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

George Foreman bowled over another "opponent" as Tony Fulilangi became his latest knockout victim. Mail continues to pour in for a Foreman title shot.

Azumah Nelson, Tony Lopez and Rocky Lockridge could defeat Pendleton. After watching Pendleton mug Livingstone Bramble, I think this would be a ludicrous position to take. Freddie Pendleton definitely deserves a ranking from *The Ring*, just as much as he deserves a shot at one of the versions of the world title.

MARK UNDERWOOD
Austin, TX

Editor's Note: Your point is well taken, Mr. Underwood, but Pendleton is erratic as his recent KO loss to John Montes demonstrates. Also, Pendleton weighed 140.

COMMENTS FROM CONNECTICUT

A COUPLE OF COMMENTS ON THE Chavez-Ramirez fight: I thought Julio Cesar won every round. He outduelled Jose Luis in all the pugilistic arts — foot speed, hand speed, combination punching, feinting, defense, et al, while Ramirez fought like a bull. Chavez should have been awarded two ears and a tail for this one.

I notice the Alphabet Boys are considering a "command performance" rematch for the pair. I didn't see any rules broken. The bout was scored by the usual "Campbell's Soup" regulations. Perhaps Ramirez's management has political influence with fellow Latinos on those two illustrious organizations known as the WBC and WBA.

One more thing. I thought Kevin Rooney was great as color commentator for the bout. I hope HBO is not scared off by his earthiness. He sounds like a fighter because he was a fighter. He brought a Damon Runyonesque quality of honesty and enthusiasm to the broadcast.

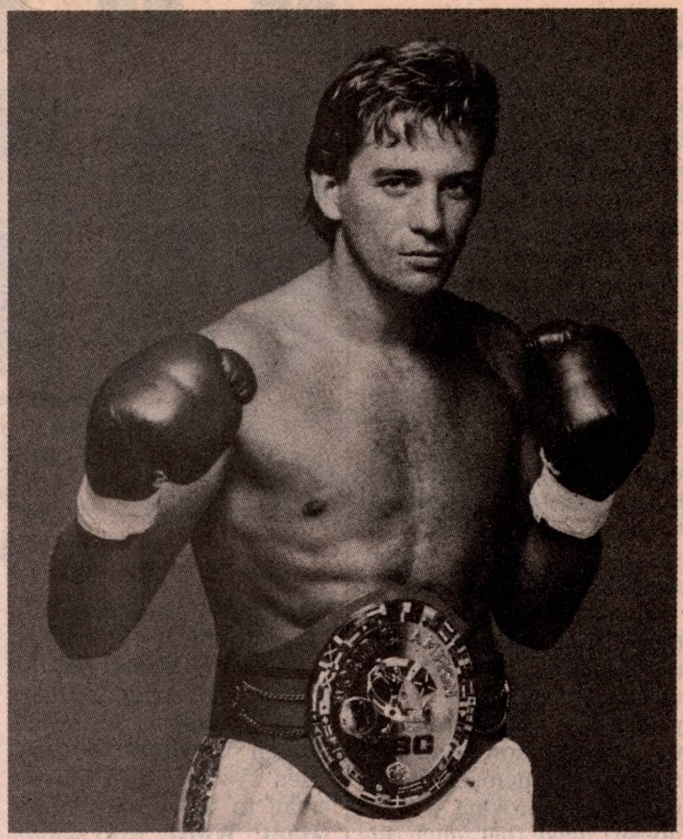
MATTHEW H. KLEIN
Weatogue, CT

ANOTHER VOTE FOR BIG GEORGE

EVER SINCE GEORGE FOREMAN BEgan his comeback, many people have laughed at his hopes of regaining the heavyweight title. I honestly feel Foreman has taken a worse beating from the boxing media than from any of his ring opponents. I think a Tyson/Foreman fight will eventually take place. If it does, look for the "Fighting Preacher" to kayo "Iron Mike" within four rounds.

JOSEPH S. HARMAN
Auburn Hills, MI

Editor's Note: Mr. Harman will be pleased to know THE RING has received more mail in support of Foreman's comeback than on any other topic the past 18 months.



Reader Joe Tomlinson thinks Donny Lalonde should be proud of his showing against Sugar Ray Leonard.

LALONDE STILL THE PRIDE OF CANADA

THE DAY AFTER THE LEONARD-Lalonde fight, I saw a series of interviews in which both fighters were present. I thought Donny took his loss very well. But the phrase I kept hearing Donny say was, "I'm sorry I let everybody down." The only way I see it, Donny didn't let anyone down. He went into the ring and gave it his best shot. We, as Canadians, should not expect anything more. People like Donny Lalonde make me proud to be a Canadian. I also think it's great what he is doing to prevent child abuse. In my eyes, Donny will always be a great fighter—win or lose.

JOE TOMLINSON
Ottawa, Canada

KINCHEN ROBBED?

MY WIFE AND I JUST FINISHED watching what we thought would be the fight of the year, Hearns versus Kinchen. Instead, it turned out to be the robbery of the year.

True, Kinchen has the mentality and heart of a contender and not a champion. True, he should have taken out Hearns and failed to do so. But he still won the fight. Just look at each man's face afterward. Tommy could not even hold his head up to take the belt.

Obviously the powers that be want a Leonard-Hearns rematch. Who cares if they are both a shadow of their former selves? Well we, the boxing fans, do. Both Leonard and Hearns should have retired long ago. Save the super fights for the super fighters. Save fighters and fans from the indignities such as the Hearns over Kinchen decision.

BARRY & CHRISTIE VREVICH
San Diego, CA

ROUND ONE

by Phill Marder

WEIGHT A MINUTE!

Sugar Ray Leonard's win over **Donny Lalonde** proved, once again, that weight is the most overrated advantage in boxing, thus the need for a jumble of super and junior weight categories is non-existent.

Here was Leonard, a legitimate middleweight at around 161, out-slugging a legitimate light heavyweight, who weighed 167. If that is possible, and it has been proven so down through the years, what do we need a super middleweight division for?

A look at what has happened in the last two years reveals *The Ring*'s reduced ratings actually have been prophetic — ahead of their time. The reason? Because the fighters themselves are continually proving weight doesn't make that much difference.

Let's look at some more examples. Take the cruiserweight division . . . please. Some still insist fighters are bigger today, therefore you need a weight division between light heavyweight and heavyweight. This, in spite of the recent success of **Michael Spinks**, who moved directly from light heavyweight champion with nary a glance at the cruiserweights. Spinks weighed 45 pounds more than he did as a light heavyweight champion when he fought **Mike Tyson**. Maybe if he hadn't weighed so much, he could've ducked a punch. Maybe. Big heavyweights have always been around. We just don't remember most of them . . . because they weren't any good. Except for a rare talent such as **Muhammad Ali**, history has shown that the bigger they are, the slower they are. After all, the two biggest heavyweight champions — **Jess Willard** and **Primo Carnera** — were also two of the worst.

Evander Holyfield, at 195, is too small to fight **Mike Tyson**, at 220, even though Holyfield is taller. Then Tyson should be too small to fight **Mike "The Giant" White**, who stands around 7-0 and weighed about 270 when he was knocked out in his last fight. So what do we do? Well, we either strip Tyson or create the super heavyweight division. That should be the next step, which will, of course, all but erase the unique distinction of sport's greatest prize — the heavyweight championship of the world.

Holyfield was ranked No. 5 in the heavyweight class when *The Ring* revised its ratings in March, 1987. Since, he has moved to No. 1. Critics said "Holyfield's just a cruiserweight." But today, Holyfield generally is considered Tyson's only immediate threat.

Bert Cooper was ranked No. 10 heavyweight. But Cooper was belted out by **Carl Williams** and critics said, "See, Cooper's too small to fight heavyweights." But no one said that when Cooper creamed huge **Willie de Wit** on national television. Let's face it, Cooper is an average fighter, good enough to beat some between 175 and 250 pounds and bad enough to lose to a few in that same weight spread.

Joe Louis weighed 197¼ when he won the heavyweight championship. **Rocky Marciano** weighed 184. Today, they would be considered too small to be heavyweights. But if Louis or Marciano were matched with any of today's top 10 heavyweights, not including Tyson, who would you bet on?

Two years ago, *The Ring* ratings listed junior middleweight champ **Mike McCallum** No. 5 middleweight. Since, McCallum vacated his junior title and lost to **Sumbu Kalambay** in a try for the WBA middleweight title. But McCallum did not lose because he was too small. On the contrary, he was the bigger man who forced the action. Kalambay was just better.

How about the recent example of **Matthew Hilton**, whose career was sorely tarnished by **Robert Hines**? The unbeaten Hilton had to strain like all-get-out to defend his 154-pound IBF

Tommy Loughran spotted heavyweight champion Primo Carnera 86 pounds but still went the 15-round distance. Carnera (on scale) was typical of big heavyweights, slow and clumsy.

junior middleweight title. Weakened by the weight loss, Hilton lost. Instead of an undefeated middleweight slugger as a future world challenger, we're left with yet another former junior middleweight champion of the world. What Hilton's corner should have done was chuck his junior title and challenge **Thomas Hearns** when **Fulgencio Obelmejias** dropped out of their recent Vegas duel.

Two years ago, *The Ring* ratings installed WBC super featherweight titleholder **Julio Cesar Chavez** as No. 5 lightweight. Critics said he was too small to beat lightweights. Need we say more?

Multiple titleholders are killing boxing, but expansion of weight classes is just as damaging. Chavez could become a great lightweight champion and a true draw. Instead, he'll try for one third of the junior welterweight title and, if successful, will become just another junior welterweight champion. If Chavez had to reach to 147, he might think twice about giving up his championship and he'd probably become a legend at lightweight.

And how about **Yong-Kang Kim**? Kim was not ranked as a flyweight by anyone, but was rated No. 6 by the WBA and No. 5 by the WBC in the junior or light flyweight division. Yet he was good enough to win the world flyweight championship from **Sot Chitalada**. If the No. 5 or 6 junior flyweight is good enough to beat the world flyweight champion, then why do we need a junior flyweight division? And if **Pascual Perez** could become one of the all-time great flyweight champions weighing around 107 pounds, do we need mini flys, minimumweights and strawweights? The first time Perez weighed 112 pounds (the flyweight limit) he lost his championship! And don't tell me flyweights are getting bigger!

Kim is just one example of fighters who negate the claim that more divisions make things safer. Because the truth of the matter is, the boxers are still bouncing around in weight, anyway, with many being rated in one division by one organization and in another by another organization.

Expect **Roger Mayweather**, rated by *The Ring* as a welterweight for some time, to go after a 147-pound title. Bet on **Meldrick Taylor** against any welterweight in the world. **Jung-Koo Chang**, long ranked at the top of the flyweight class by *The Ring*, has recently announced he will give up his WBC light flyweight title to go after the flyweight crown. Is **Jeff Fenech** a featherweight, or what?

BIG DEAL

If it's such a big deal to win five world titles, how come two guys could do it on the same weekend?

THE FAB FOUR?

With the formation of the WBO, we've gone from "The Three Stooges" to "The Fab Four." Gear.

Our Puerto Rico correspondent, **Mario Rivera Martino**, was right in the middle of this latest in boxing's civil wars and reported that **Luis Batista Salas** had led the revolt against WBA Prez **Gilberto Mendoza**. When Mendoza learned of the challenge, Martino reports the WBA changed its convention site at the last minute and made sure no first-class accommodations were available to opponents of Mendoza at the new site, Venezuela's Margarita Island.

Steve Acunto, president of the American Association for the Improvement of Boxing, presents an award to light heavyweight Bobby Czyz (left) at "Boxerama VII."

Also, entry visas were denied some Mendoza opponents and Colombia's six votes, going against Mendoza, were negated when Mendoza named six new Colombian members! Martino also reported a resident of Venezuela was allowed to vote for Puerto Rico because he is a citizen there and the Toronto representative also lives outside the area he represents.

Alberto Aleman, a rep of Panama for 18 years, wasn't allowed to vote when it was established he was against Mendoza. Said Aleman, "Mendoza is a dictator who will not accept advice of any sort or constructive criticism."

James Resnick, Chairman of the Florida State Athletic Commission, advised by mail Florida would abstain. But a vote was cast for Florida — for Mendoza. Treasurer **Nick Kerasiotis** also was declared personna non grata for opposing Mendoza.

Mendoza failed to have a fixed agenda and instead of culminating the sessions with voting, held voting immediately upon obtaining the necessary votes to win.

Alas, instead of taking its time and making the right decisions, the WBO immediately established itself as just another boxing parasite by sanctioning the **Thomas Hearns/James Kinchen** bout for its vacant world super middleweight championship. Aaargh.

MERE BAG 'O SHELLS

Ole' What's-her-name, the one who didn't want anything, sued her hubby for a mere $125 million because he called her "the slime of the slime."

At the same time, **George Foreman**, that pillar of religion, said, "My timetable is to get ahold of **Mike Tyson** before he gets caught and locked up. I've got to get ahold of him before a good district attorney does."

PUNCH LINES

Speaking on HBO, **Don Lalonde** said, "... about five days before the fight and three days before, I dreamt I was stopped — that Ray hit me with an overhand right and stopped me."

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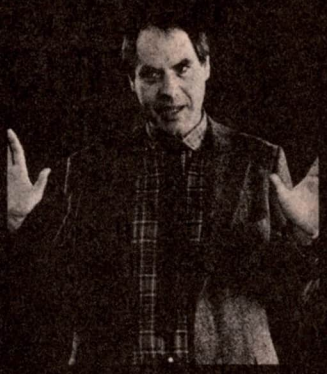

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Carl Williams TKO3 Mike Rouse
Glenn McCrory KO4 Ron Warrior
Terry Davis D10 Harry Terrell
Glenn McCrory KO2 Lorenzo Boyd
Orlin Norris W12 Jesse Ferguson
Andy Straughn W12 Tee Jay
Johnny Du Plooy TKO10 James Pritchard
Dwight Muhamad Qawi TKO3 Olian Alexander
Craig Bodzianowski TKO7 Dawud Shaw
Dan Murphy KO2 Ray Thomas
Freddie Rafferty TKO3 Gideon Hlongwa
Jeff Lampkin TKO5 Alfonzo Ratliff

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Jan Lefeber W12 Pedro Van Raamsdonk
Alex Blanchard KO6 Johnny Held
Sylvester White KO7 Dominick Carter
Carlos Antunes W10 Enrique Coronel
Sugar Ray Leonard KO9 Don Lalonde
(Won WBC Title)
(Won WBC Super Middleweight Title)
Thomas Hearns W12 James Kinchen
(Won WBO Super Middleweight Title)
Virgil Hill TKO10 Willy Featherstone
(Retained WBA Title)
Darryl Fromm KO4 Alberto Rodriguez
Joe Lasisi TKO6 Danny Stonewalker
Lindell Holmes TKO6 Phillip Morefield

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Sumbu Kalambay KO7 Doug DeWitt
(Retained World Championship)
Francisco Lisboa W10 Graeme Looker
Ricky Pontoh TKO10 Valentino
Carlos Elliot TKO2 Lex Cabubas
Dan Morgan TKO4 Anthony Adams
Francesco Dell'Aquila W10 Jose Rosemain
Victor Claudio TKO1 Carlos Betancourt
Young Dick Tiger W10 Kenny Lopez
Tony Byrd W10 Kenny Snow
Michael Nunn KO8 Juan Roldan
(Retained IBF Title)
Robert Hines W12 Matthew Hilton
(Won IBF Jr. Middleweight Title)
Paul Toweel KO10 Eric Dunn
Darrin Van Horn TKO4 Miguel Angel Hernandez
Joaquin Velasquez TKO7 Milton McCrory
Mike Tinley TKO9 Ken Releford

WELTERWEIGHTS

Robert Azumah KO2 Dansayarm Machachai
Robert Azumah W10 Rocky Terottina
Moon-Shil Chi W10 Pyong-Sup Kim
Pernell Whitaker TKO4 Antonio Carter
Harold Brazier TKO6 Willard Johnson
Russell Mitchell KO3 Ray Taylor
Roger Mayweather W12 Vinny Pazienza
(Retained WBC Jr. Welterweight Title)
Harold Volbrecht KO11 Phumzile Madikane
Roddy Blake TKO6 Felix Santiago
Harry Arroyo W10 Raul Torres
Maurice Blocker KO3 Ruben Villaman
Engels Pedroza W10 Eric Martin
Tony Baltazar TKO7 Miguel Dominguez
Rafael Pineda KO2 Bryan Brown
John Montes KO10 Fred Pendleton
Jose Rivera W10 Engels Pedroza

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Srikun Narachavat W10 Ganitala
Muhammad Juhari KO7 John Jaya
Hengky Gun KO7 Yungyai Petchivar
Suwarno Perico TKO5 Ricardo S.
Bong-Chun Park TKO6 Kwon-Shik Kim
Man-Soo Kim KO3 Kwon-Hyung Nah
Kenji Iizumi TKO1 Hidemitsu Hongo
Yoshitatsu Nakazato W10 Koki Higaashi
Tom Hanks W12 Forrest Winchester
Michael Benjamin D10 Karim Rabbi
Sidnei Dal Rovere TKO7 Domingo Nogueira
Armando Baeza W10 Mike Zena
Brian Mitchell W12 Jim McDonnell
(Retained WBA Jr. Lightweight Title)
Steve Boyle KO8 Joey Jacobs
John Duplessis TKO7 Harold Romero
Tunde Foster W10 Darren McGrew
Rolando Navarrete TKO6 Jin-Shik Choi
Norman Bates TKO9 Gary Gamble
Mark Brannon TKO5 Jorge Acosta
Shoji Nishida KO6 Minoru Kujyo
Frank Newton TKO5 Darrell Bryant
Aladin Stevens W12 Lovuyo Kakaza
Harold Rhodes TKO2 Ralph Reyes
Genaro Hernandez KO6 Refugio Rojas

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Antonio Esparragoza KO8 Jose Marmolejo
(Retained World Championship)
Little Holmes W10 Joe Hiyas
Noce Lukman W12 Kace Tomasoa
Chan-Yong Park KO4 Robby
Chan-Mok Park W12 Byung-Soo Park
Bert Pucay KO2 Takeo Takahashi
Mitsuru Sugiya KO10 Masakatsu Sakuma
Naoto Takahashi W10 Little Bangoyan
Shinji Sugazaki KO5 Jun Sato
Calvin Grove TKO6 Jessee Williams
Julio Gervacio TKO9 Santos Cruz
Hurley Snead W10 Edgar Garcia
Fransie Badenhorst TKO5 Ephraim Lepota
Allen Makitoki KO8 Lupe Gutierrez
Jose Sanabria TKO6 Thierry Jacob
(Retained IBF Super Bantamweight Title)
Jeff Fenech TKO5 George Navarro
(Retained WBC Title)

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Wim Sapulete TKO10 Yanto
Jossy Amnifu KO4 Tubiyas
Koheita Tanaka W10 Mitsuo Imazoto
Shunichi Nakajima W10 Rolando Protacio
Robert Quiroga TKO2 Edgar Contreras
Gerardo Martinez W12 Alberto Martinez
Vincenzo Belcastro W12 Billy Hardy
Jose Ruiz Tech.Dec.5 Bernardo Mendoza
Greg Richardson W10 James Tolliver
Ricky Romero W10 Javier Diaz
Gilberto Roman W12 Sugar Baby Rojas
(Retained WBC Super Flyweight Title)
Orlando Canizales KO1 Jimmy Navarro
(Retained IBF Bantamweight Title)
Sung-Kil Moon TKO7 Edgar Monserrat
(Retained WBA Title)

FLYWEIGHTS

Yong-Kang Kim W12 Emil Romano Matsushima
(Retained World Championship)
Ippo Gala D12 Junus Tiran
Mulya Gana D10 Little Baguio
Nico Thomas TKO8 Nana Suhana
Yul-Woo Lee KO3 Houn-Kuk Chae
Kyung-Yung Lee KO2 Sang-Sik Chang
Ha-Shik Lim KO4 Allan Morre
Sun-Yong Chung TKO1 Azadin Anhar
Katsumi Komiyama D10 Roger de Rama
Jun Calora TKO9 Takayuki Uemura
Kenji Matsumura KO2 Aldo Kawamata
Yoshihiro Yamamoto W10 Al Lianita
Yosuke Matsuoka W10 Cesar Perez
Yasuo Yogi TKO3 Hitoshi Taniuchi
Tacy Macalos W12 Jum-Hwan Choi
(Won IBF Jr. Flyweight Title)
Myung-Woo Yuh KO7 Baharudin Udin
(Retained WBA Jr. Flyweight Title)
Napa Kiatwanchai W12 Hiroki Ioka
(Won WBC Strawweight Title)
Nao Tokushima W10 Missile Kudo
Kenbun Taiho TKO8 Yasutaka Sakurai
Francisco Tejedor TKO7 Jaime Diaz

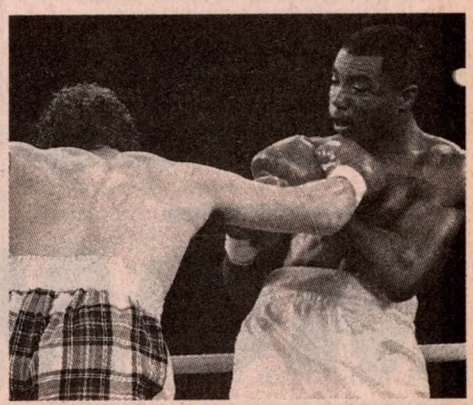
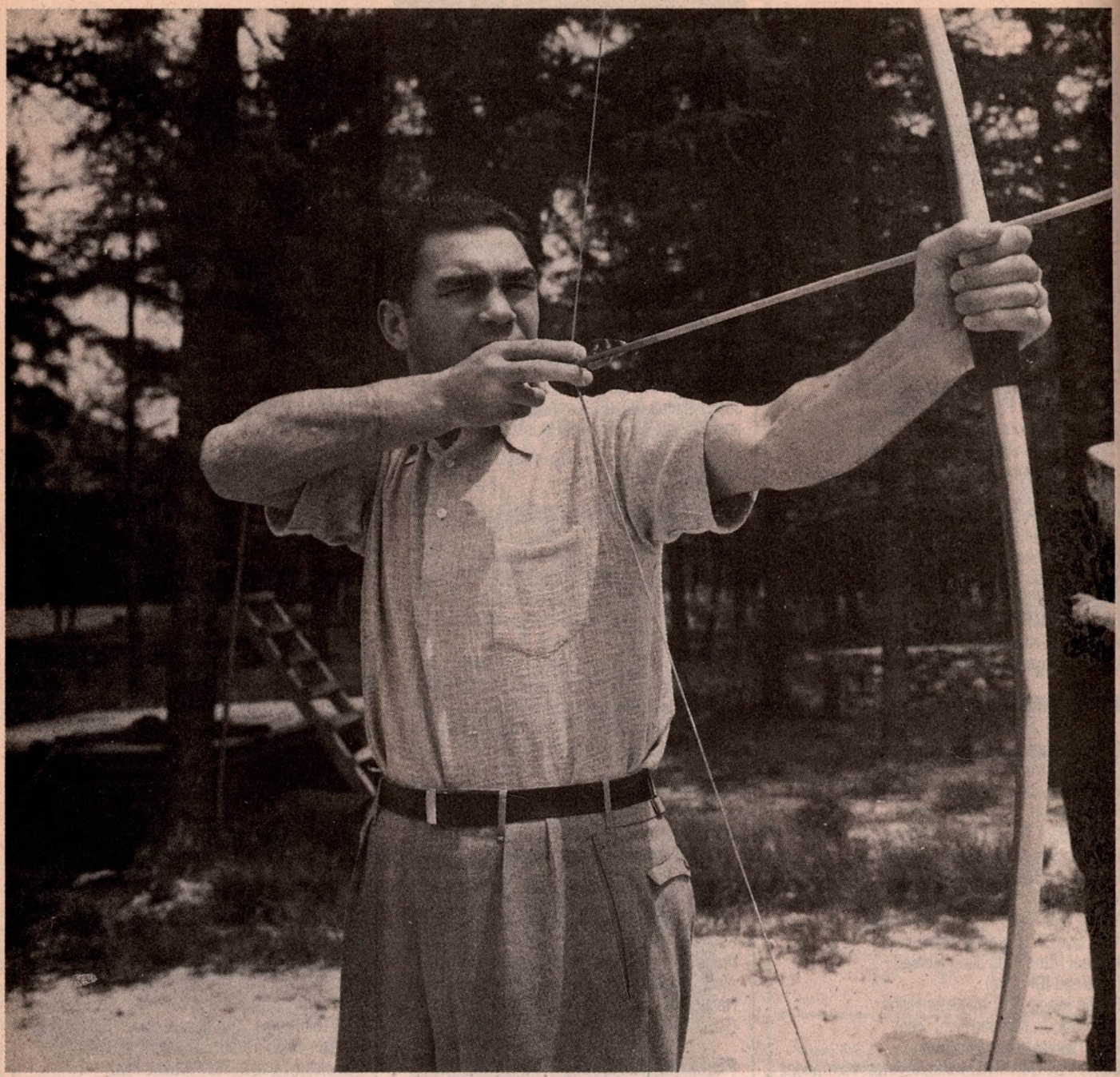


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Previously unbeaten Matthew Hilton jarred Robert Hines with this right, but Hines came back from a couple of knockdowns to win the IBF junior middleweight title by decision.



MAJOR MOMENTS

by Joseph D'O'Brian

Jack Sharkey's aim wasn't as good as Max Schmeling's (seen here with a bow and arrow) when they met for the first time in 1930. Schmeling won the heavyweight title when Sharley fouled out with a shot to the groin. The controversial ending gave birth to boxing's "no foul" rule.

THE RECENT LEONARD-LALONDE BOUT was a somewhat better scrap than I'd expected, but it still was not, as far as anyone could tell, a pivotal bout for either fighter. Oddly enough, though, it may turn out to have been a very important bout indeed as far as its overall historical impact is concerned.

This was really the first bout ever promoted that depended almost entirely on pay-per-view revenue to bring in the profits. The gate alone has not been enough to pay two stars the kind of money they've demanded for a quarter-century or more now: The last real "Superfight" to depend entirely on the live gate for revenue was the second Louis-Conn bout in 1946. Network TV hasn't ever been a real money-maker; cable TV is only slightly better. Closed-circuit was good for awhile, but people have been spoiled by home TV: They no longer care to drive 50 miles and pay $50 to sit in a theatre with a bunch of rowdies when a taped version of the fight will be shown a week later on TV.

In any event, there was nobody camping out by the ticket outlets to be sure he got into the live show. And as for the closed-circuit attendance, I've seen better turnouts at sleeping contests.

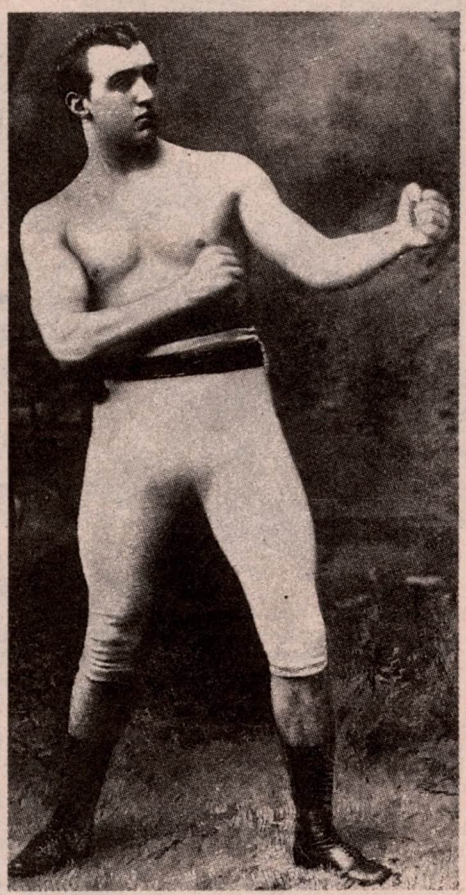
I gather, though, that a bob or two was made from pay-per-view sales. Which makes sense, since there are a lot of die-hard Leonard fans out there, as well as a few die-hard Loneard-haters, all of whom would be glad to lay out a measly $30 to see that fight, so long as they didn't have to leave home or sit in a metal folding chair to see it.

I see a trend here. I see a similar trend in the fact that the upcoming Mike Tyson-Frank Bruno bout has apparently been moved from London to Las Vegas. The trend, I believe, is to completely discount the live audience.

My guess is that that bout has been moved because London is a difficult venue if you're trying to sell closed-circuit, pay-per-view or cable-casts to the United States, which is where the money is. Furthermore, the only part of the live audience that counts — the first two rows, where Ali, Bill Cosby, Madonna, Bette Midler and Bernhard Goetz will sit to be seen — probably find it a fearful bore to schlep all the way to London if they can just make the short flight to Las Vegas instead.

So, the complexion of boxing has undergone another major change. This time, the change is that the game has been transformed into something that could just as well be taking place in a room just big enough to hold a ring, with nobody in attendance besides the fighters, the officials and the seconds. Just a few years from now, Larry Merchant will probably be interviewing Bill Cosby on fight night over drinks in Cosby's rumpus room as they watch the pageant unfold on TV.

Charlie Mitchell's 1888 match with John L. Sullivan ended the bare-knuckle era.



Well, things change. I'm not happy about it, but there's not a damn thing I can do. I just hope that what I've got done saying turns out to be as big an exaggeration as it looks.

You never can tell, though. Many's the time that a bout took place that appeared relatively insignificant, but which in fact changed the history — or the appearance — of boxing irrevocably. Sometimes, of course, you see one of these pivotal bouts and realize immediately that you have seen something of tremendous historical importance — the Johnson-Jeffries bout, for instance, or the second Tunney-Dempsey bout — but sometimes it takes some time, perhaps many years, for the true historical importance of a bout to be recognized.

Here are a few of my favorite sleepers — bouts that, like Leonard-Lalonde, appeared at the time to be merely interesting little scraps, but which in the fullness of time turned out to be bellwethers.

John L. Sullivan vs. Charlie Mitchell (10 March, 1888): Most historians date the end of the bare-knuckle era from the Sullivan-Kilrain bout, which took place more than a year after this one. In fact, that bout was merely a last hurrah, a "once more for old times' sake" type of affair. It was the Sullivan-Mitchell bout, a deadly-boring 39-round draw, that convinced the boxing public (and Sullivan) that bare-knuckle rules were outdated. There was a new breed of fighter coming up in the 1880s, of which Charlie Mitchell was one: This new breed was able to take advantage of the bare-knuckle rules by running, stalling, clinching and generally abusing the rules. It wasn't that they were bad or immoral fighters, these fellows; it was just that they were smart, knew the rules and used them.

In any case, as this new run-and-grab style developed, it became easier for an inferior fighter to win a bout through attrition, by simply retreating until his opponent fell exhausted. Mitchell almost accomplished this against Sullivan.

There was already a strong feeling on the part of most fans that glove fights tended to have more action to them and now the heavyweight champion of the world agreed with them.

Max Schmeling vs. Jack Sharkey (12 June, 1930): "Boxing will never recover from this smear," old Jim Corbett told a reporter as he left the arena where Schmeling had just won the heavyweight title on a probably phony foul. Corbett overstated the case, but the bout certainly did have a lasting effect on the game.

Schmeling won the fight in the fourth round by falling to the floor and clutching his naughty bits, claiming that Sharkey was trying to turn him into a soprano. The referee, acting under pressure from certain hotheads in the press rows, immediately disqualified Shar-

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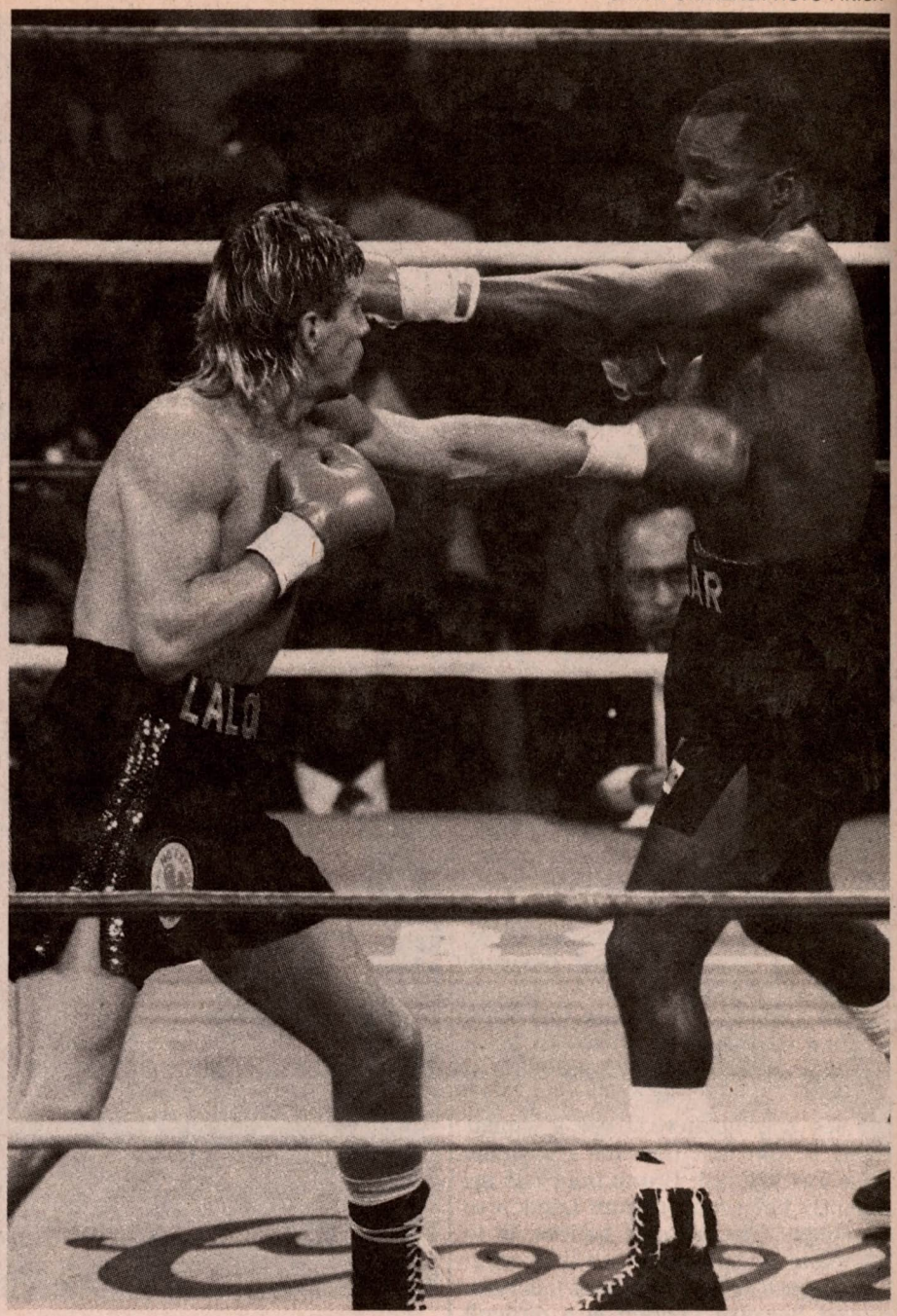


Donny Lalonde and Sugar Ray Leonard trade tentative jabs during the early going of their Las Vegas encounter. The match marked the first time a big bout depended almost entirely on pay-per-view TV for its major source of income.

key. This led to something called the "no foul" rule, still in effect, I believe, in most of the United States, which dictates that a fighter can actually be knocked out by a foul blow. He's usually given some extra time to recover, of course, but if he can't come up to scratch in, say, five minutes, he's knocked out, even if his opponent decked him with a burst from a machine pistol.

True, referees do sometimes disqualify fighters for flagrant fouling, and they are almost always correct to do so, in my opinion. But the "no foul" rule has changed the course of history more than once. One of the most famous examples occurred in the first Joe Louis-Buddy Baer bout, when Louis raced across the ring after the bell ending the sixth round and cold-cocked Baer with a tremendous shot to the back of the head. It was generally conceded that Louis should be forgiven for this: This was one unexplainable lapse in an otherwise perfectly sportsmanlike career; he had simply forgotten himself, and in any event he was beating the crap out of Baer with or without that foul blow. Although referee Arthur Donovan handled the situation badly, not giving Baer any extra time to recover, nobody really felt Louis should have been disqualified.

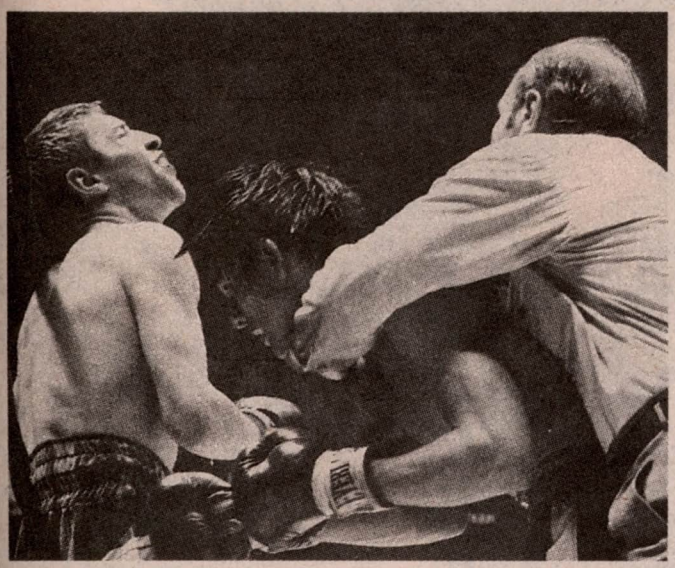
Yet that may well have happened if the "no foul" rule hadn't been in effect, and who knows what wacky turns boxing history would have taken then?

Roberto Duran also had his career saved by this rule, back in 1972, when he won the lightweight title from Ken Buchanan with a punch so devastating that Buchanan still has to take off his hat to scratch his nuts. Once again, the referee made the mistake of not allowing Buchanan any recovery time — but once again, it appeared justice was served. Duran was a mile ahead on points and Buchanan was nearly ready to go when this saucy little punch ended matters in the 13th round.

You could probably organize a pretty good panel discussion at the bar on a Saturday night about the "no foul" rule. It's one of those issues on which you're forced to feel very strongly both ways. But whichever side you come down on, you can thank Max Schmeling for providing the controversy.

Floyd Patterson vs. Archie Moore (30 November, 1956): Floyd Patterson was the first evidence we had that an entire generation of fighters was being bred for TV. Prior to Patterson, there were smaller differences among various fighters' styles. There was a state of the art, a certain basic style that appealed to the knowledgeable boxing fan because it was generally sound. Sure, there were boxers and sluggers, just as there have always been, and there were incremental stylistic differences. But Patterson introduced the kind of fighter who has a highly identifiable, eye-catching style. The peek-a-boo style? That's Patterson. Drop your hands and shuffle? Muhammad Ali. Bend over double and flail

Floyd Patterson and cornermen celebrate his victory over Archie Moore for the heavyweight crown. Patterson was perhaps the first heavyweight champ bred for television.



Roberto Duran (right) was the benefactor of the "no foul" when he won the lightweight title from Ken Buchanan with a belt below the belt.

away? Joe Frazier. Cross your arms? Ken Norton.

The classic style that dominated boxing from, say, 1920 to 1955, was generally effective. It was not so perfect that innovations weren't made on occasion; on the other hand, the classic style seldom showed up any glaring weaknesses.

The specialized styles of today have changed the game considerably. They tend to play up what an individual fighter does best — Patterson's surprise haymakers, Ali's way of destroying an opponent's timing, Frazier's incredible fury, Norton's counterpunching — but they also have a way of displaying a fighter's weaknesses. It seems that these days, no matter how good a fighter is, we know there's a certain stylist who can always beat him, who will always take advantage of that fighter's idiosyncracies. Ali always had trouble with counterpunchers. Norton couldn't handle brawlers. But in just about every case, the styles are colorful; they make it easy for the not-so-knowledgeable TV fan to identify the various fighters. Has this improved the general quality of boxing, though?

Ray Mancini vs. Duk-Koo Kim (13 November, 1982): It was as though nobody had ever been killed in the ring before. And in a sense that was the case. Certainly nobody had ever been killed in the ring on a coast-to-coast broadcast late on a Saturday afternoon when the football games were over and just about everybody in the United States was watching.

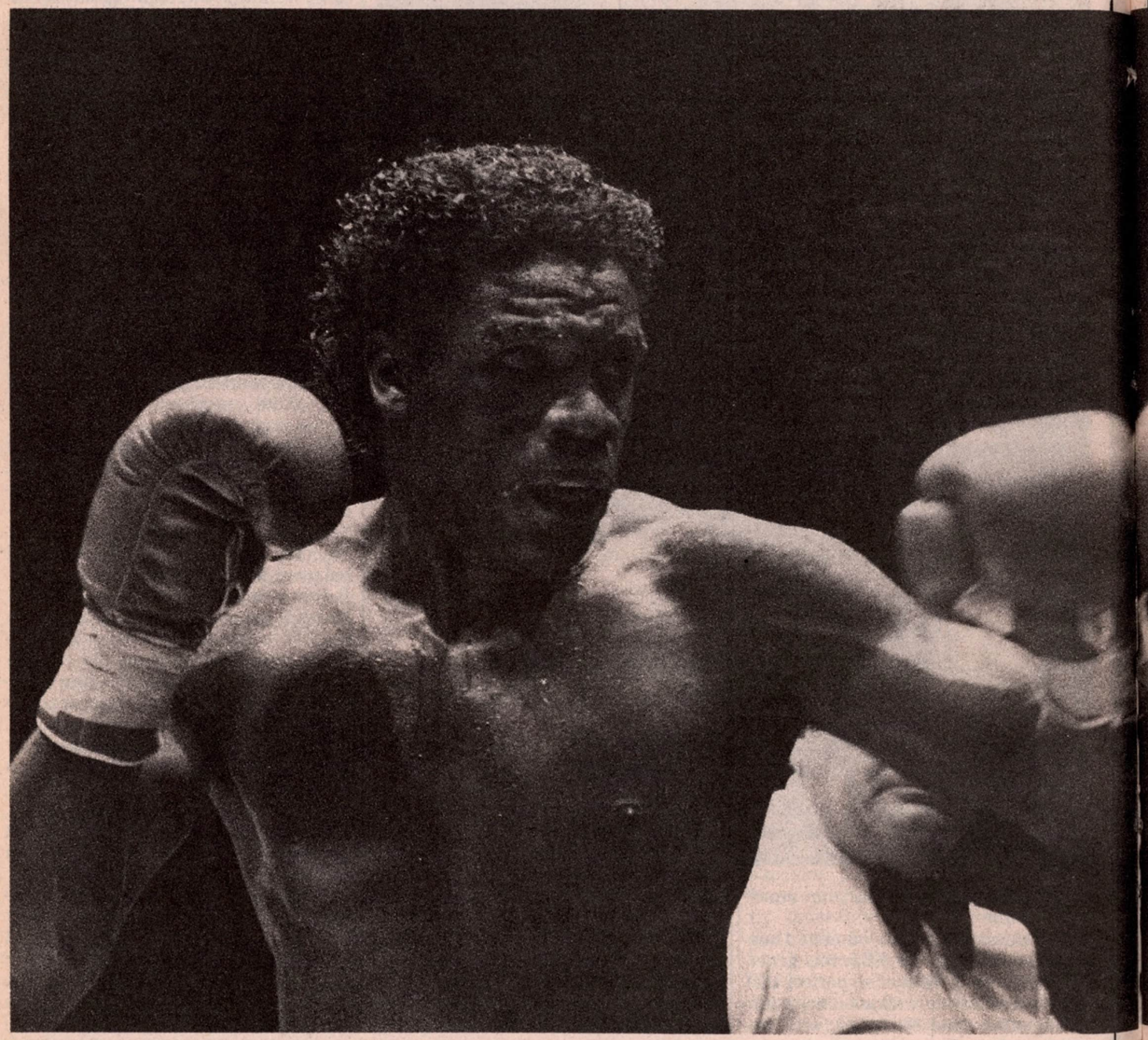
The result was a systematic trashing of the sport that is still going on today. Nobody stopped to consider that maybe this tragedy happened simply because this fight was a gross mismatch. No, they had to throw the proverbial baby out with the proverbial bathwater. Bouts were shortened, as though that had any bearing on matters at all. (In the WBC's first 12-round title bout, Kiko Bejines was killed — in the 12th round.) Barbaric rules like the standing eight-count, which must actually lead to many more injuries, were instituted. Bouts are stopped whenever somebody gets a bloody nose. To satisfy a bunch of inept greedheads (I refer, of course, to the American Medical Association), the boxing community is committing a particularly slow and painful version of *hara-kiri*. Ah, to Hell with it.

Well, those are just a handful. I suggest that you use this article as a start and get a little parlor game going. I have a feeling you'll be surprised at the historical significance of fights that at first blush don't deserve an awful lot of consideration. □

PRINCE IN EXILE

IBF Light Heavyweight Ruler Finds Second Home In Europe

by Bernard Fernandez



HAD HE COME EQUIPPED WITH AN exotic or distinctive moniker, there would have been no need to invent a nickname that would set Charles Williams apart from the crowd. Not that there is anything wrong with a good, solid name like his, mind you, but you probably could go to any large American city, pick up a telephone book and find at least a page devoted to people variously identified as Charles Williams.

So, in a moment of inspiration, Gerry Stapleton decided that the largely unknown fighter she managed needed either a name change or some sort of distinguishing prefix.

"It was 1984, right after I had signed Charles to a contract," Stapleton recalled. "Then, as now, there were a lot of stories about England's prince Charles and Princess Diana. So I thought it might be a good idea to start calling him 'Prince' Charles Williams."

As it turned out, the implied royalty conferred by Stapleton upon Williams, a former factory worker in Mansfield, Ohio, was appropriate in more ways than one. With a surprising technical knockout of then-International Boxing Federation champion Bobby Czyz on Oct. 29, 1987, in Las Vegas, Williams took his place among the many crowned heads of boxing. And, given his recent proclivity for fighting in Europe, it would appear that he is comfortable in a setting inhabited by real-life princes.

But the tour of France undertaken by one of the United States' least-appreciated world titlists is tantamount to a career in exile. The man many believe to be the best light heavyweight in the world wants to come home and make himself available for domestic consumption. Besides, "Prince" Charles has just about run out of Frenchmen to beat up.

"The (US television) networks have missed the boat on Charles," said Williams' promoter, Philadelphia-based J. Russell Peltz. "It's like they have tunnel vision, seeing only the fighters they want to see and overlooking others. The thing I can't figure out is how they've managed to overlook Charles. He's the best light heavyweight out there, and the most exciting, too."

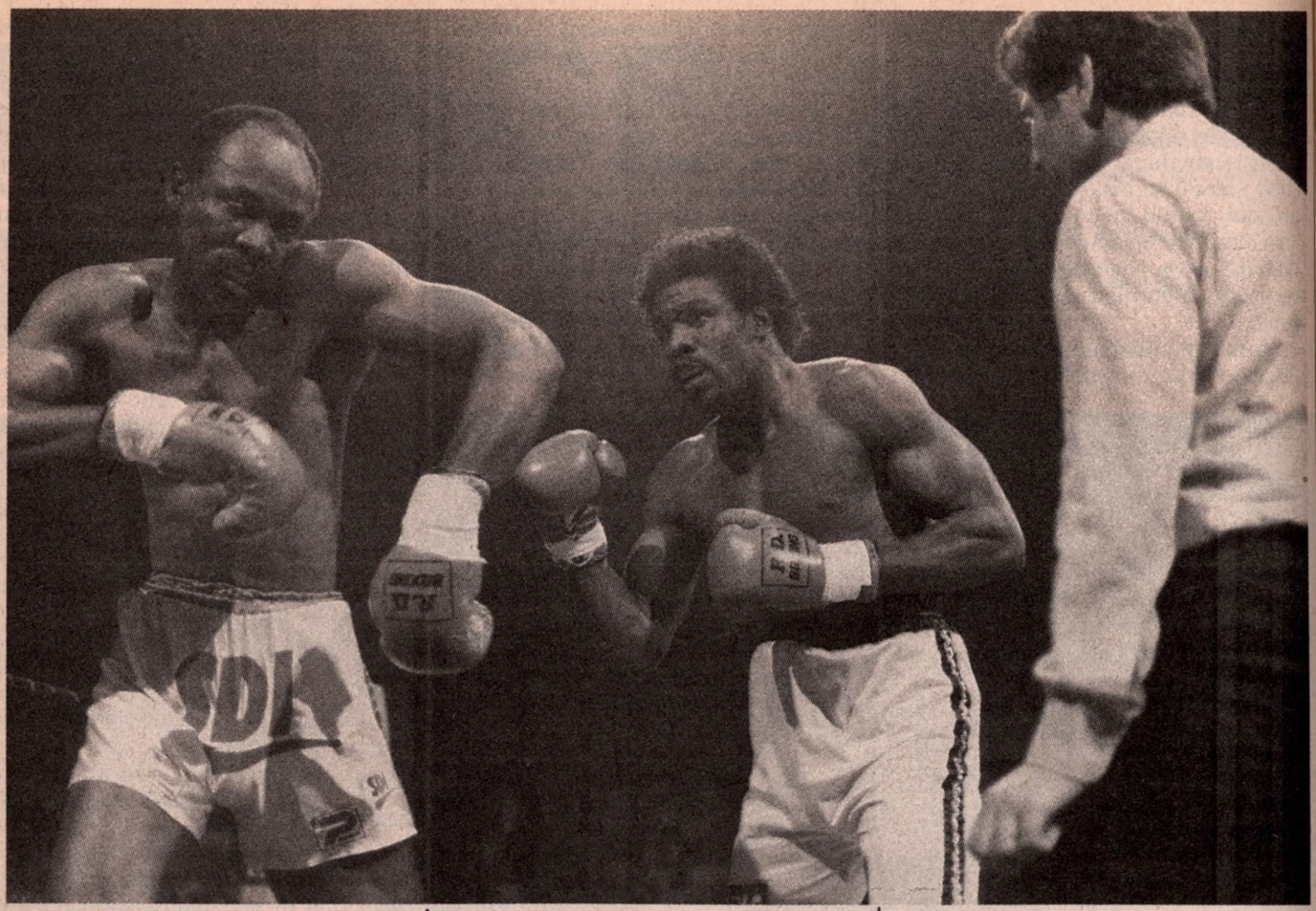
Stapleton, a one-time beautician whose emergence as the manager of a world champion is no less a fairy tale than that of her fighter, was similarly perplexed. "I don't know what we're doing wrong," she said. "We gave USA (the cable network) a tape of Charles' title fight with (France's Rufino) Angulo and they didn't even use the highlights. Virgil Hill (the WBA 175-pound champ) couldn't stop the guy, but Charles knocked him out in his own backyard. What else do we have to do?

"People call me and say, 'How come we never hear anything about Charles?' And I can't answer them. Maybe he's just destined to be like Marvin Hagler and fight for years before everybody realizes how good he is."

• • •

Depending upon one's point of view, Charles Williams — the pre-Prince version, at least — was not much of a candidate for anything more than oppo-

"Prince" Charles Williams (left) moves in for the kill against French challenger Rufino Angulo en route to a TKO victory in defense of his IBF light heavyweight title. The win raised Williams' pro record to 25-4-2 with 17 KOs.



Williams (right) chases mismatched Jim Shavers during their Paris bout which saw Williams score a TKO in a non-title tune-up.

nent status. Oh, he was tough and a hard worker, not unlike thousands of other hopefuls who set out in search of the same elusive dream, but he found himself handicapped by undeveloped skills, a messy managerial situation and a lack of training opportunities in his home town.

Williams, 26, might have remained as anonymous as his many phone book namesakes were it not for an incredible streak of good fortune that began when Stapleton happened to tune in to an ESPN boxing telecast in 1983.

"I heard the ring announcer say that one of the fighters was from Mansfield, Ohio," Stapleton said. "I called up Rex Reese, who at the time was the boxing commissioner in Ohio, and told him that one of the guys getting ready to fight on TV was from right here in Mansfield. Rex told me that he was familiar with Charles, that he was a good fighter but that he had had a lot of managerial problems."

While Stapleton was talking to Reese, world-rated Anthony Witherspoon knocked down Williams in the first round. But he didn't stay there long. He rose with a determined look on his face, which was enough to convince Stapleton that the local kid wasn't just another bum from the neighborhood.

"I wish Leonard had fought me instead," Williams said. "I'd have loved to have gotten a shot at that kind of money. But Leonard's smart. He picked the guy he felt he had the best chance to beat."

"I told Rex that I thought Charles would come back to win the fight, and that's exactly what he did," Stapleton said.

Stapleton, who describes herself as a "life-long boxing fan," didn't hear anything else about Williams for the next year or so, until Reese called and suggested she get together with the fighter, whose managerial woes were worse than ever.

Williams contacted Stapleton two days before Christmas and they had their first face-to-face meeting on Dec. 26, 1983. "We hit it off right away," Stapleton said, "and I signed him in January."

This represented something of a risk for both parties; Williams was placing himself in the hands of a manager with zero experience while Stapleton, a woman of limited financial resources, was committing herself to expenses she had no way of knowing she would ever recoup.

"But it felt right to be with Gerry," Williams said. "I had a feeling it would all work out."

And so it has, although there were a number of subplots to be sorted out along the way. Stapleton, 41, who has operated a home for the handicapped (her daughter is a quadriplegic) since she got out of the beautician business,

put together a small group of investors who paid Williams' training expenses and a $100 weekly stipend. "Nobody can live on $100 a week, so I gave Charles money on top of that out of my own pocket," Stapleton said. "I tried to provide him with the best sparring and the best training available."

The problem was that training opportunities were limited in Mansfield, which is not known as a hotbed of the sweet science. So Stapleton tried to find a place where Williams could get the work he needed. For a while she thought Grand Rapids, Mich., might be the answer, but when that didn't pan out she set her sights on the great fighting city of Philadelphia.

"After we lost to Marvin Johnson in November (of 1984), I started calling Russell Peltz," Stapleton said. "It took three or four months, but he finally agreed to use Charles on one of his cards. Afterward, he told me that the only reason he did it was because I was a woman and he didn't know how to get rid of me. I guess he figured Charles would lose and that would be the end of that."

Peltz doesn't remember it that way at all. "I knew Charles could fight because I'd seen him give Marvin Johnson all he could handle," Peltz said. And when Williams scored a six-round decision over Marcus Jackson, Peltz decided to serve as his promoter.

As part of the deal Williams began training in Philadelphia, and he quickly blossomed under the tutelage of veteran trainer Billy "Smiley" Hayward.

"The talent was there all the time, but being in Philadelphia made all the difference," Peltz said. "He's a much more polished, much more well-rounded fighter than he was before."

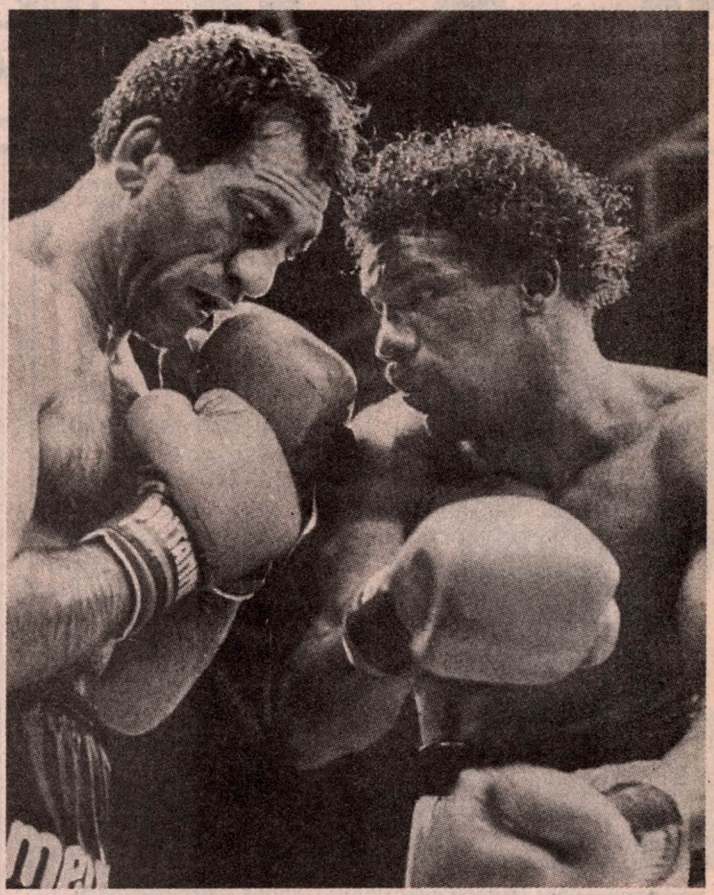
Stapleton agrees. "You know what they say about Philly," she said. "If two winos are fighting in an alley, both of them will be throwing jabs. All Charles needed was to be put in an environment where he could improve."

• • •

Williams thought all his hard work had paid off when, after being knocked down in the second round and finding himself in deep trouble early in the third round against Czyz, he came on to punch the IBF champion's face into a bloody pulp. Ring physician Donald Romeo did not allow Czyz, who had a massive hematoma of the right eye, to come out for the 10th round.

"It was the greatest feeling I ever had," Williams said of his against-the-odds victory. "It was like my dream had come true."

But the months that have passed since he won the title have only illustrated that there are limits to dream fulfillment. Williams, whose previous top purse had been $3,500, got $60,000 for beating Czyz, and their fight was rated the second-best of 1987 by *The Ring* after the Hagler-Sugar Ray Leonard extravaganza. When Stapleton and Peltz started looking for big-bucks dates in the States, however, they found the market surprisingly bare.



In his first overseas defense of the title he won from Bobby Czyz, Williams (right) pounded Frenchman Richard Caramanolis into an 11-round defeat.

So it was off to France, where Williams successfully defended his title against Richard Caramanolis in Annecy and Angulo in Bordeaux. He is popular and relatively well-paid in France—his two defenses enriched him by a total of $220,000—but it does get a bit frustrating when he reads of Donny Lalonde's $5 million payday for squaring off against Leonard.

"I wish Leonard had fought me instead," Williams said. "I'd have loved to have gotten a shot at that kind of money. But Leonard's smart. He picked the guy he felt he had the best chance to beat."

"Charles could have made 168 pounds," Peltz added. "If it had been him in there with Leonard, he would have won by a knockout. I have no doubts about that."

Peltz also is convinced that Williams can gain the acceptance in this country that should have accompanied his win over Czyz. "One network appearance at a competitive fee, that's all it would take," Peltz said. "The rest would be easy."

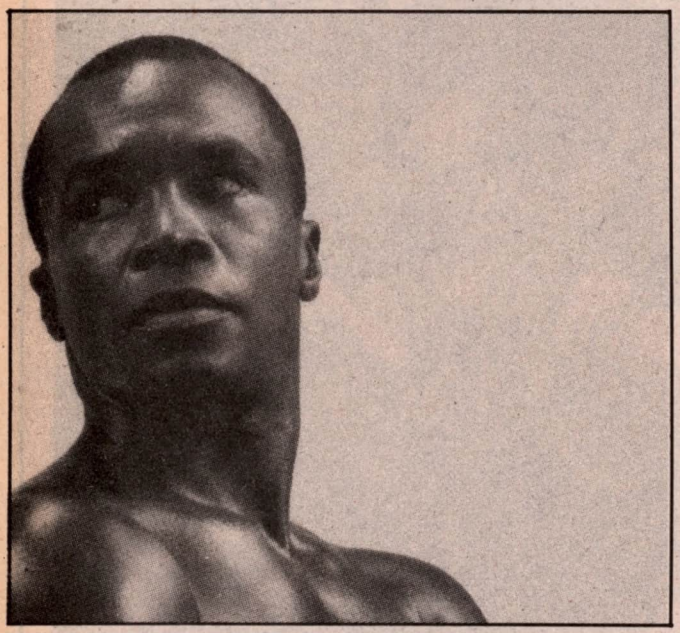
For now, however, the Prince's road show is likely to continue. He has been offered a bout against Jean-Marie Emebe in the Cameroons, although Stapleton would rather it be held in France.

"At least we know what it's like to fight in France," she said. "Besides, Charles is very big there. Everybody knows him." □

Editor's Note: Bernard Fernandez is the boxing writer for the Philadelphia DAILY NEWS and the son of former pro welterweight Jack Fernandez.

RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



His up-from-the-floor triumph over Donny Lalonde was more than enough to earn Sugar Ray Leonard THE RING's Fighter of the Month award.

Returning to the spotlight for his annual appearance is this month's selection for Fighter of the Month, **Sugar Ray Leonard**. Not only did Leonard beat Donny Lalonde for the WBC's 175 and 168-pound belts, he came off the floor in an exciting fight to do so. Nice work, Ray.

Runner-up position goes to **Robert Hines**, who also pulled himself off the canvas (twice) to relieve highly favored Matthew Hilton of the IBF junior middleweight title via a unanimous 12-round decision.

Honorable mentions go to **Roger Mayweather**, who continued his recent fine form with a unanimous decision over Vinny Pazienza to retain the WBC super welterweight crown on the Leonard-Lalonde card, and to both winner **Thomas Hearns** and loser **James Kinchen** for the thrilling battle they waged for the NABF super middleweight title. □

ROMAN - ROJAS
WBC Super Flyweight Title

LAS VEGAS — "HERE'S blood in your eye" was the perfect sobriquet as Gilberto Roman of Mexicali, Mexico, looked more like the loser than a unanimous winner in defending his WBC super flyweight crown against Colombia's Jose "Sugar Baby" Rojas over 12 rounds on the Ray Leonard/Don Lalonde undercard at Caesars Palace.

In a rerun of their April 8 Miami matchup, Roman repeated his victory but again not without being cut over the left eye by a butt that referee Carlos Padilla obviously ruled accidental since no point was deducted from Rojas' tally. Roman didn't dispute Padilla, though he apparently wasn't sure, saying, "I don't know because this was just like our last fight when a Rojas butt opened a cut over my right eye. All the way I was using my left jab to keep away . . . far away as possible from that crazy, awkward style of his. The way Rojas comes at you makes for a difficult fight."

The 26-year-old Roman, *The Ring*'s fourth-ranked bantamweight at 115, was well-paid for the bleeding, collecting $162,544, while Rojas, unranked by *The Ring*, earned a mere $17,287 in an unsuccessful bid to regain the title he lost to Roman. Roman improved to 51-4 with 36 KOs, making his fourth defense since regaining the title.

Two inches taller at 5-6, Rojas, 114, seemed to have trouble getting the range of an opponent who was like a gnat as he slipped punches and repeatedly changed directions, while scoring sporadically with combinations. Rojas, 25, whose record dipped to 30-2-1 with 18 KOs, could have phoned in his performance. But the overall effort would not have been worth the tolls from Barranquilla.

When the rivals butted heads in the third, Padilla called Dr. Don Romeo of the Nevada Commission to the ring for an inspection. The WBC titleholder's triumvirate of Rafael Mendoza, Nacho Beristain and Rafael Garcia did a yeoman's job in keeping the cut in check. While neither fighter is likely to consider this outing worthy of retelling to their grandchildren, Roman may have some satisfaction in recalling he nearly pitched a shutout under arduous circumstances that

included repeated clanging of heads and low blows from both.

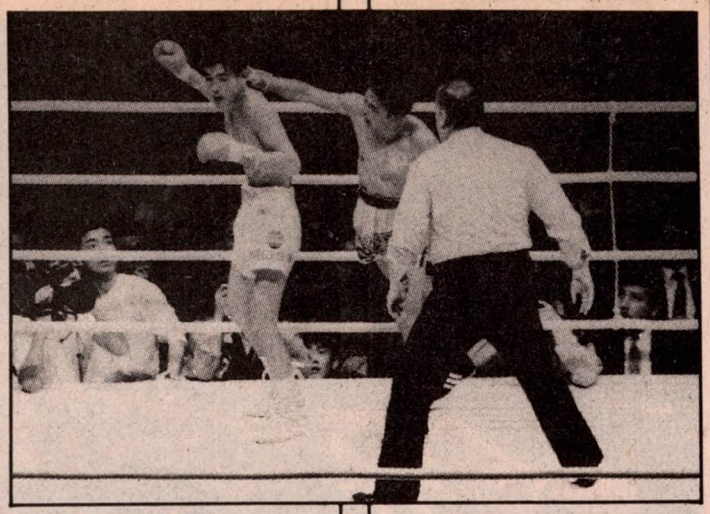
Tony Castellano of New Jersey scored 119-108, giving Rojas only the 12th round. Jerry Roth of Las Vegas scored 117-111, giving Rojas the second, eighth and 10th, while Harry Gibbs of London saw it 117-113, with Rojas winning the second, 11th and 12th with the fifth and 10th even. *The Ring*'s tally was 118-112, Roman.

Dan Sherry, 159, Silver Springs, Maryland, scored a TKO over Johnny Apollo, also 159, Las Vegas, at 3:00 of the third round.

Kevin Casimeir, 176, New Orleans, posted a majority eight-round decision over Art Hall, 174, Plainfield, New Jersey.
(11-7-88)

JACK WELSH

PHOTO BY MAMORO KUBOTA



Japan's Hiroki Ioka (left) seems to be turning his back and running away from challenger Napa Kiatwanchai. The Thai lefty won the WBC strawweight title via a popular majority decision.

KIATWANCHAI - IOKA
WBC Strawweight Title

OSAKA — THAI LEFTY NAPA Kiatwanchai, 104¾, stalked Japanese Hiroki Ioka, the defending champ at 105, all the way and wrested the WBC strawweight crown via a majority, but very popular decision in 12 heats at Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium.

It was a grudge rematch, their first bout having ended in a controversial draw. In that June 5 bout, Ioka, on the verge of going down, was saved by the bell ending the 12th and final round. But the round was 32 seconds short due to a mistake by the timekeeper, and the WBC ordered a rematch.

The 5-7 Ioka took the first round, connecting with straight rights and left hooks to the face. From the second on, however, it was all Napa. The 21-year-old Thai kept himself aggressive, coming forward with solid southpaw right hooks and straight lefts. Ioka attempted to outleg Kiatwanchai, but was obliged to reread continually to avert the Thai's incessant attacks.

The lanky 19-year-old took the seventh with good body shots and sharp, but powerless punches. But from the eighth session on, he failed to win a round. The titleholder tried to counter, but his punches were not enough to stop Kiatwanchai's attack.

In Round Nine, Kiatwanchai broke away from Ioka's repeated clinching and threw Ioka to the deck, drawing a penalty from US referee Martin Denkin. In the last three rounds, Kiatwanchai went all out for the KO, fearing he might lose a hometown decision.

But in the 12th round, Kiatwanchai kept punching when Ioka turned his back near the ropes, and Kiatwanchai landed on the back of Ioka's neck. Denkin deducted another point, for rabbit punching, but even with the deductions it was clear Kiatwanchai was the winner.

Jose Guerra of Mexico and Dave Brown of the US each scored 115-112 in favor of Kiatwanchai, who reportedly upped his log to 25-0-2 with five KOs, while Raul Caiz of the US saw it 113-113.

Ioka, who fell to 10-1-1 with six KOs, must be criticized for his lack of fighting spirit as his backpedaling was jeered severely from midway in the contest. No Japanese champion ever lost his title in such disappointing fashion.

Hisashi Tokushima, a lanky footworker at 105, gained the national strawweight crown via a majority nod (99-96, 98-95 and 96-96) over Missile Kudo, the defending titlist, 104½, in 10.

Following the relinquishment of Leopard Tamakuma, Kebun Taiho, 112, became the new Japanese flyweight champ via a TKO win over Yasutaka Sakurai, 111, due to the loser's bad bleeding at the end of the eighth of a scheduled 10.

In a supporting 10, ex-Japanese strawweight champ Yasuo Yogi, 110¼, stopped Hitoshi Taniuchi, also 110¼, at 1:40 of the third.

Promoter: Green Tsuda Promotions.
Attendance: 9,850.
(11-13-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

HILL - FEATHERSTONE
WBA Light Heavyweight Title

BISMARCK — VIRGIL HILL, *The Ring's* No. 2 contender, defended his WBA light heavyweight title by stopping Canada's Willy Featherstone at 2:05 of the 10th round of a scheduled 12.

Featherstone, down in the third, was cut below the left eye and above and below the right eye when referee Steve Smoger of New Jersey saved him, pleasing the 7,900 who crowded into the 8,000-seat Bismarck Civic Center to see their hometown hero.

Hill remained undefeated, notching his 15th KO in a 23-0 record. The 29-year-old Featherstone, who fell to 20-4, hinted retirement, telling Dave Kolpack of *The Bismarck Tribune*, "I said if I fought like Donny Lalonde I'd quit. I did, so I quit."

But Featherstone did indicate he would still like to meet Lalonde in a grudge match.

The 24-year-old Hill, meanwhile, has a probable national television date ahead with Bobby Czyz. If successful there, Hill would likely fight in Bismarck again in March. As far as a possible meeting with Sugar Ray Leonard, Hill indicated willingness, but doubted Leonard would fight him.

Hill floored Featherstone with a right to the side of the head that broke Featherstone's ear drum. The Canadian from Ontario never went down again but took a battering, winning only the fifth round on two cards as Hill pitched a near shutout.

On the undercard, **Joe Lasisi**, *The Ring*'s 10th-ranked light heavyweight, stopped Danny Stonewalker in six.
(11-11-88)

LOPEZ - MOLINA
IBF Jr. Lightweight Title

SACRAMENTO — IN THE first defense of his IBF

junior lightweight title, hometown favorite Tony Lopez got off the canvas to win a unanimous 12-round decision over Puerto Rico's John John Molina.

A crowd of 7,500 in the Arco Sports Centre saw a Molina left hook put Lopez down in the second and the titleholder was hurt again in the fifth, but rallied down the stretch to squeeze out the verdict. Terry Smith of Sacramento and Paul Gibbs of Seattle each had Lopez winning, 114-113, while Gerald Maltz of Tucson had it 115-111. Molina was penalized a point in the 11th round for low blows by Sacramento referee Hank Elespuru.

Though the 23-year-old Molina had the better of the action in the fight's first half, he backed off the 25-year-old Lopez from the sixth until the final minute when he again took charge and hurt the titleholder.

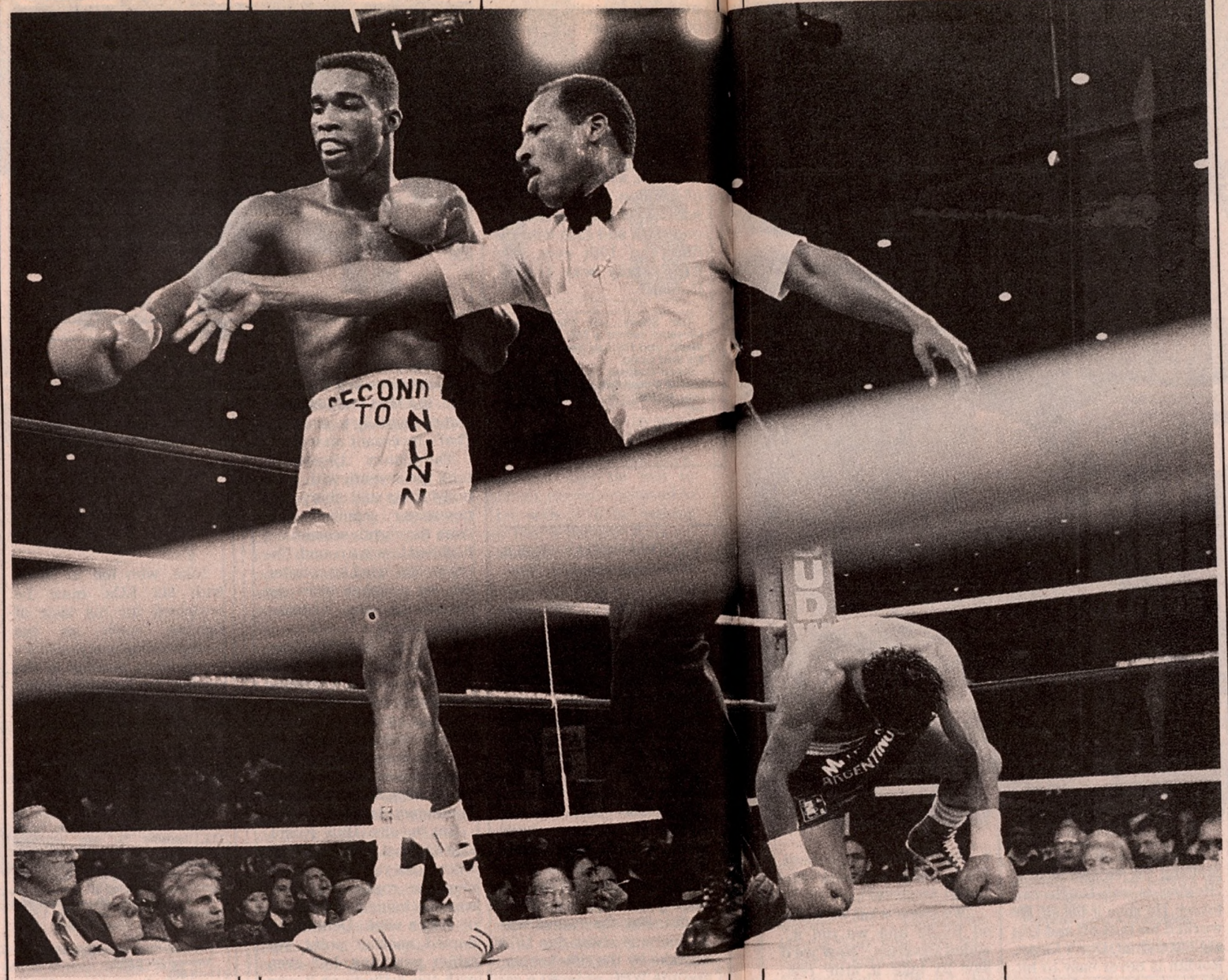
Lopez, ranked seventh by *The Ring* in the lightweight class, weighed 129¾ to Molina's 127½.
(10-27-88)

KALAMBAY - DeWITT
World Middleweight Championship

MONTE CARLO — ITALY'S Sumbu Kalambay retained his world middleweight championship, knocking out America's Doug DeWitt at 1:31 of the seventh of a scheduled 12.

Kalambay missed with a right hand but followed with a left hook/uppercut that caught DeWitt flush on the chin as he moved in. DeWitt, unranked by *The Ring* going into the fight, fell flat on his back. He staggered to his feet, but referee Carlos Berrocal of Panama had no choice but to stop the bout.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA



Referee Richard Steele directs Michael Nunn to a neutral corner after the IBF middleweight champ floored Argentine challenger Juan Roldan en route to an eighth-round knockout in Las Vegas.

To that point, the 32-year-old Kalambay, the WBA titleholder, dominated the 27-year-old DeWitt, boxing beautifully from the outside and outpunching the American on the inside. Now known as Patrizio in his adopted land, Kalambay spoke of a planned defense against IBF titleholder Michael Nunn, ranked No. 1 by *The Ring*.

Midway through the first round, Kalambay served notice he wasn't about to run from the plodding challenger as he stood and outpunched DeWitt, landing with short lefts and overhand rights. Kalambay pounded DeWitt to the head in the second, then focused on the body in the third, scoring particularly well with the left hook.

The pattern continued, interrupted infrequently when DeWitt landed. But even the challenger's good punches didn't faze Kalambay.

The victory left Kalambay, 158½, Rome, 45-3-1 with 24 knockouts. DeWitt, 159, Yonkers, New York, fell to 30-6-4 with 17 KOs as he was stopped for the second time.

On the undercard, Argentina's Jorge Castro, 153½, stretched his record to 18-0 with 16 knockouts by knocking out American Alphonso Bailey, 155½, in the fifth round. Castro appeared wild and clumsy as he pursued Bailey of Jersey City, who fell to 14-3-1 when Castro finally caught him in a corner and decked him with a barrage. Bailey got up, but the count continued.
Promoter: Top Rank Inc.
TV: ESPN.
(11-8-88)

NUNN - ROLDAN
IBF Middleweight Title

LAS VEGAS — TITO LECtoure, the sage of Argentine boxing promoters, momentarily gave Michael Nunn some food for thought when he suggested the IBF middleweight titleholder "will run like a girl when he's in the ring with Juan Domingo Roldan."

A crowd of 8,000-plus taking in Top Rank's triple title promotion at the Las Vegas Hilton saw Nunn take the bait, standing flat-footed to fight Roldan's fight in the early rounds. The 31-year-old perennial contender, unranked by *The Ring*, missed more than he landed in sporadically keeping the pride of Ten Goose Stable off balance. Still, the end was inevitable once the undefeated Nunn, ranked No. 1 by *The Ring*, returned to the fluid attack that is earning him the reputation as the superstar of the 160-pound division.

Once he got Roldan's menacing head off his shoulder, Nunn began to score with pin-point combinations to back up the charging Roldan in the sixth. Ever the bull in boxing trunks, Roldan began to weary after the seventh as the 6-1 hero from North Hollywood, California bounced an assortment of punches off his exposed head.

The celebrity-studded gathering roared with approval as Nunn improved to 32-0 with 22 KOs when his Sunday shots finally knocked Roldan into permanent retirement in the eighth round of a scheduled 12.

The rivals traded solid punches at midring when Nunn snapped off a left-right to the head, backed Roldan up with two jabs, then offered a picture-perfect left-right-left to the jaw that dropped the Latin challenger in his own corner. Roldan, looking blankly into space, appeared resigned to his fate and made no serious effort to rise as referee Richard Steele tolled 10. It was Roldan's third unsuccessful bid for a title in Las Vegas. If he keeps his word, he hangs up the gloves 65-5-2 with one no decision and 43 knockouts.

Nunn, who earned $375,000, made no excuses for allowing the short-armed Roldan to stay in his face so long. The IBF titleholder had actually scored a knockdown in the first, but Steele ruled a slip.

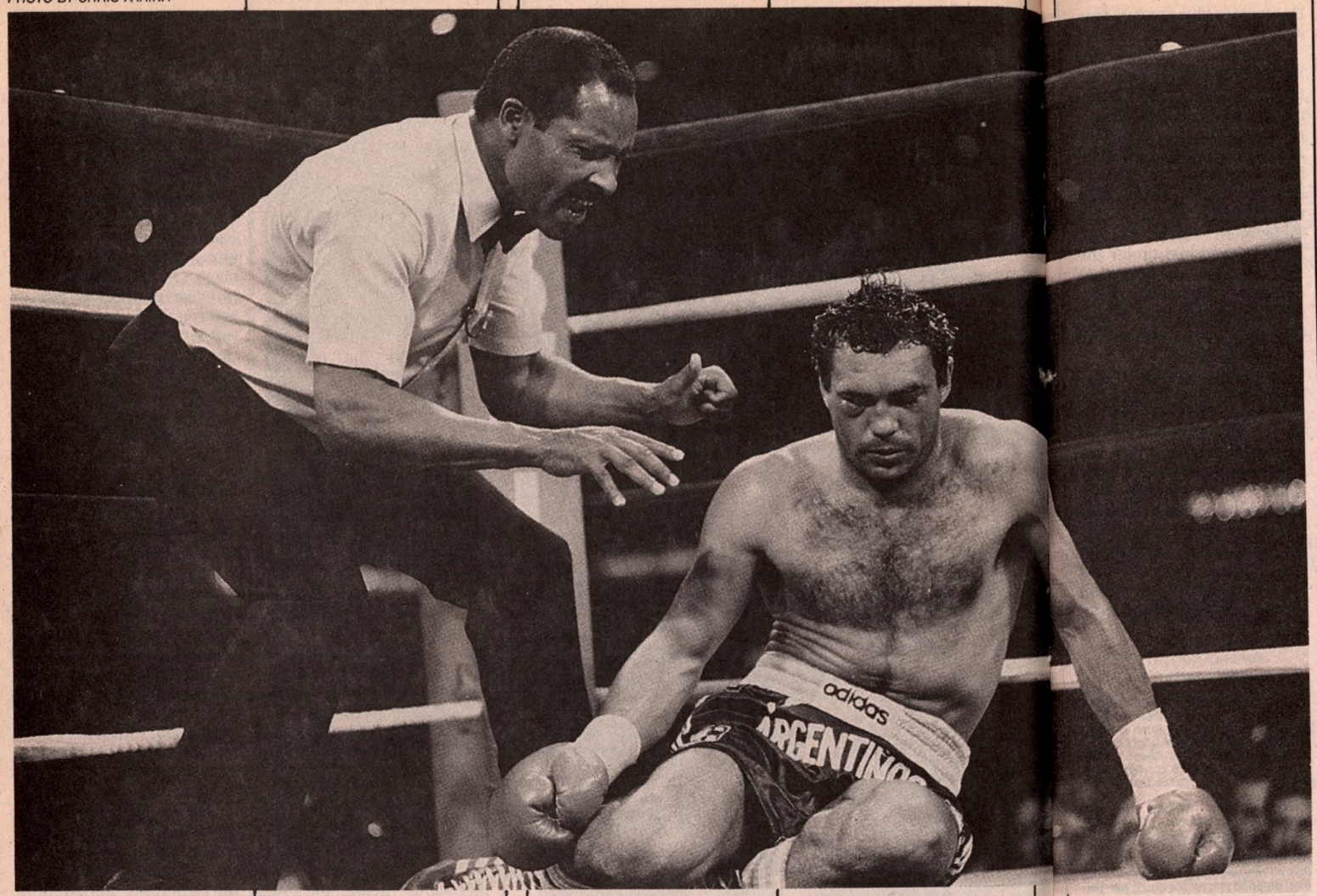
"I just didn't want to run," said Nunn. "Tito Lectoure told everybody in Argentina that I would run like a girl and I wanted to prove him wrong. So, I abandoned my real boxing skills, hey, we all make mistakes. But I had to prove a point.

"Joe Goossen, my trainer, told me Roldan would be strong and awkward, but that I would catch him at the right time," added Nunn. "My left uppercut was working all night, but I should have used it more.

"Overall, I felt I fought well," Nunn concluded. "The punch that got Roldan was a left hook. He only hit me with two real hard shots, one on the chin, but I'm a true champion so I came back to knock him out. This cut on my face is minor. It happened about 10 seconds from the final bell and will only need a couple of stitches."

At the end, Nunn had a solid lead on two of three

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA



Roldan made no effort to rise as Steele counted him out. The uncompromising defeat prompted Roldan to once more announce his retirement from the ring.

cards, Robert Cox scoring 69-64 and Dalby Shirley 69-63. Paul Smith had it surprisingly close at 68-66. *The Ring* scored 70-64.

Roldan, wearing dark glasses to hide his swollen eyes at the post-fight press conference, announced, "This is my last fight. I'm retiring. I've tried three times and this is what's happened. I will return to Argentina to be with my family. I'm happy with my life.

"Nunn caught me with two strong right hands, one in the ear and one in the eye," Roldan added, explaining the knockout. "I was stunned. I guess I woke up around the count of eight."

Nunn was generous in praising his victim, saying, "Roldan is one tough customer. He gave it his all. He worked his butt off and I tip my hat to him. Don't forget, Roldan is never easy to hit. He moves his head side to side."

Dan Goossen, Nunn's manager, was pleased, commenting, "Roldan only hit Michael once and that's when he was right in front of Roldan, trying to take him out. Roldan gave Hagler a hard time. He's a bull and a high-caliber opponent. That's why we took this fight.

"We knew what we wanted to do and we did it," added Goossen. "Now we'd like to take a little rest. Michael has not seen his family (living in Davenport, Iowa) for awhile."

Word is that Nunn will next face Italy's Sumbu Kalambay, recognized by *The Ring* as world champion.

Promoter: Top Rank Inc.
(11-4-88)

JACK WELSH

YUH - UDIN
WBA Jr. Flyweight Title

SEOUL — UNBEATEN Myung-Woo Yuh, 108, successfully kept his WBA junior flyweight title for the 10th time as he easily caught Indonesian challenger Baharudin Udin, 106½, and knocked him out at 2:40 of the seventh round in a scheduled 12 at Swiss Grand Hotel.

The underdog Udin, ranked 10th by the WBA, proved no match for the talented Yuh, ranked No. 4 as a flyweight by *The Ring*.

In the opening session, the Indonesian national champ threw roundhouse blows, Yuh averting every one with good defense. In the second, Yuh connected with a sharp left hook that floored the challenger, but he fought back hard and lasted the round. The shorter Yuh dominated the next three rounds with accurate combinations as the Indonesian attempted to land big punches that missed the target.

In Round Seven the champ pinned the fading challenger to the ropes with a flurry and referee Kenjiro Makizumi gave the groggy Udin a standing count. Yuh resumed his attack, battering Udin with short lefts and rights in close range, and down he went, this time for 10.

Yuh, 24, bettered his credentials to 29-0 with 10 knockouts. Udin, 20, fell to 16-4-4 with just two KOs. Yuh earned $143,000, Udin pocketed $15,000.

At the time of the knockout, all cards had Yuh well in front, Jose Macachor of the Philippines scoring 60-55, while Masakazu Uchida and Kazumasa Kuwata, both of Japan, each had 60-54.

Former WBA bantamweight titleholder Chan-Yong Park, 125¼, caught Indonesia's Robby, 124½, and polished him off at 1:30 of the fourth session of a scheduled 10. Park is 27-4-2 with 10 knockouts. Robby, his country's top junior featherweight contender, is 17-1 with nine KOs.

Promoter: Dong-A Promotions.
(11-6-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

HAUGEN - JACOBSEN
IBF Lightweight Title

COPENHAGEN — GREG Haugen retained his IBF lightweight title with a 10-round stoppage of hometown hero Gert Bo Jacobsen.

Jacobsen held his own for the first six rounds, but took a pounding over the latter portion of the bout, a counter left followed by a right finally sending Jacobsen flat on his back. Somehow, he beat the count but his corner, realizing Jacobsen was hurt and his case was hopeless, tossed in the towel.

Jacobsen landed his best punch in the third, a right hand flush on Haugen. But the titleholder just grinned. Haugen, who had concentrated on the head in the bout's early going, began to mix in shots below in the sixth and was clearly beginning to reach his challenger.

In both the eighth and ninth frames, Jacobsen, who matched Haugen's 135 pounds, was on the verge of going down.

Haugen entered the fight ranked No. 1 by *The Ring*, while Jacobsen was unrated.

The hometown crowd did have something to cheer when 26-year-old Lars Lund Jensen won the European junior lightweight title by upsetting Piero Morello of Italy. Jensen, the EBU's official challenger at featherweight, was a last-week sub for Racheed Lawal, who came down with the flu. Jensen had a 9-1 record, but had never gone past six rounds! Jensen gave a good account, but appeared to be wilting under the steady pressure of Morello until a counter right caused Morello to turn his back in the ninth round. Morello managed to last the round but quit in his corner, claiming an arm injury.

John Williams of Birmingham, England, also quit claiming an arm injury at 2:50 of the fourth of a scheduled heavyweight eight against Norway's Magne Havnaa. But in the case of Williams, there was no doubt. He was in severe pain, probably the result of a dislocated shoulder.

Eyub Can chased Des Gargano for six rounds to win a flyweight decision. The crowd began booing the reluctant Englishman after the first minute.

Light heavyweight Terje Sween of Norway stopped England's Kevin Roper on a cut eye in just 2:39.

Attendance: 4,000.
(10-28-88)

READ THE RING

MACALOS - CHOI
IBF Jr. Flyweight Title

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES — Filipino Tacy Macalos captured the IBF junior flyweight title as he displayed blistering two-fisted attacks in winning a unanimous decision over Jum-Hwan Choi, the defending champ from Korea, in 12 hot frames before 25,000 cheering spectators at Araneta Coliseum.

It was a grudge fight, Choi having been awarded a controversial split verdict over Macalos in March, 1987. Macalos showed progress in skill and improvement in punching power in avenging that defeat. Don Marks of Australia had it 119-108, Louis Race of the US scored 118-110, Esmeraldo Medroso of the Philippines called it 119-109 and *The Ring* scored 118-111.

Macalos used his jarring left jab to set up Choi for right crosses, which often found the target. Choi was cautious, keeping himself defensive while waiting to score big punches. Midway through Round Nine, a good right to the belly sent Choi down. The Filipino tried to finish it but failed to land another effective shot and that was the only knockdown.

Macalos tired in the final two rounds as Choi furiously swarmed over him, staggering him on several occasions. Macalos, 24-4-3 with seven KOs, earned $5,000, while Choi, 19-2 with three KOs, made $45,000.

In a supporting 10, former WBC super featherweight titleholder **Rolando Navarrete** scored his fourth straight win on his comeback when he was awarded a TKO over Jin-Shik Choi of Korea midway through the sixth round. It was a give-and-take brawl, with Navarrete leading at the stoppage. Dr. Jovencio Cruz examined Choi's gash three times before stopping the fight.

Promoter: Jun Sarreal.
(11-5-88)

JOAQUIN HENSON & JOE KOIZUMI

KIM - ROMANO
World Flyweight Championship

CHONGJU, KOREA — YONG-Kang Kim, who upset Sot Chitalada for the world flyweight championship in July, retained his crown and his WBC title with a onesided decision over Filipino lefty Emil (Matsushima) Romano in 12 monotonous rounds at Chongju Indoor Gymnasium.

The 23-year-old Kim tipped the beam at 111¼ to Romano's 112. The Filipino, also 23, was about an inch shorter than the 5-7 Korean. Romano belongs to a club owned by his Japanese manager Seigo Matsushima and fights in Japan under the name Emil Matsushima. He entered the WBC's top 10 by taking a close decision over Oh-Kong Son February 27. He was unrated by *The Ring*.

Some thought Kim's victory over Chitalada was a fluke and underestimate the new champion's real power. He displayed superior speed and skill in outpunching his flat-footed challenger.

Kim started the first round at full speed, scoring right-left combinations to his southpaw rival, who was nervous and cautious as he waited for the opening to land his left. Kim kept moving in and out with combinations and nearly toppled Romano in the third with solid rights to the face.

The fifth session saw referee Sid Rubenstein deduct a point from the defending champion for holding Romano's head while throwing punches. Kim lost another point for the same reason in the 10th, but so dominated that it wasn't a problem. The challenger absorbed much punishment and his eyes were swollen badly. He was also bleeding from the mouth from the fifth round.

Kim tried for the KO in the last two rounds, but Romano wouldn't go down. The scorecards of the three judges from the United States saw Cindy Bartin Hunter, Chuck Hassett and Martin Sammon all voting 118-107.

Kim, 18-0 with seven KOs, was criticized for a lack of power in failing to stop Romano. The real test will be the rematch with Chitalada. Romano fell to 19-5-1 with 11 KOs.

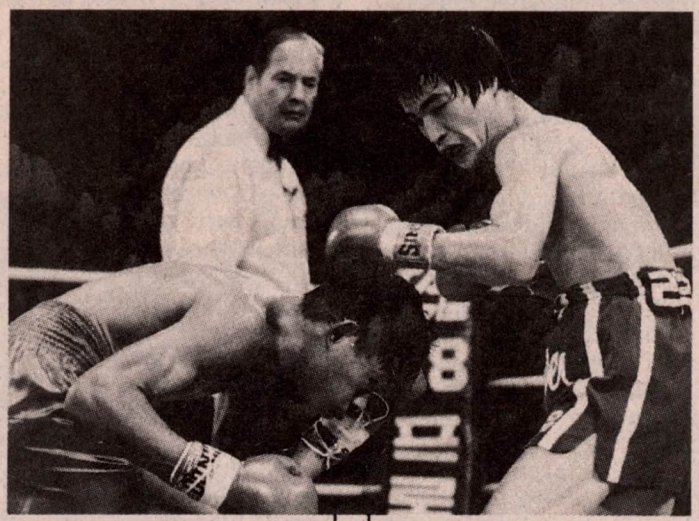
In a semifinal, Sun-Yong Chung, the OPBF junior flyweight champ, 107¼, kept his title as he was awarded a TKO over Azadin Anhar, an Indonesian challenger at 107½, at 2:45 of the first of a scheduled 12. Azadin suffered a deep gash under the eyebrow and was declared unfit to continue by the ring doctor. Chung, a sturdy 108 pounds, is 15-1-3 with five KOs. Anhar is 15-8 with seven KOs.

Man-Soo Kim, 131½, KO'd Kwon-Hyung Nah, 132¼, at 2:25 of the third session in a supporting 10. Kim, the Korean Commission's No. 6 junior lightie, is 4-0 with three KOs. Nah impaired tc 15-5-1 with six KOs.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.
(11-12-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

PHOTOS BY JOE KOIZUMI



(Top) ***World flyweight champion Yong-Kang Kim (left) and challenger Emil Romano exchange blows during their 12-round bout in Chongju, Korea. Kim kept the title with a one-sided decision.***

(Bottom) ***Romano ducks low to avoid a left hook from Kim. It was Kim's first defense since upsetting Sot Chitalada for the crown.***

MITCHELL — McDONNELL
WBA Jr. Lightweight Title

SOUTHWARK, ENGLAND — South African Brian Mitchell again defended his WBA junior lightweight title on the road, beating England's Jim McDonnell by unanimous decision over 12 rounds at the Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre.

Carol Polis of the United States scored 118-110, Panama's Humberto Figueroa had it 119-113 and Denmark's Ove Oveson saw it 117-112.

McDonnell entered unbeaten with 24 straight victories, but the former European featherweight champion was unranked by *The Ring*. Ironically, Mitchell had moved into the No. 10 lightweight slot in *The Ring* ratings the same day of the McDonnell fight. Mitchell had hovered just under the top 10 for awhile, but couldn't break in until the recognition of Julio Cesar Chavez as champion created a vacancy.

Though a year younger than his challenger, the 26-year-old Mitchell had a great edge in worldwide seasoning and that, plus his advantage in strength, produced a convincing win. McDonnell proved elusive, but by doing so did not land many punches. McDonnell held his own over the first six rounds, then Mitchell pretty much assumed control.

Southampton's Jimmy Peters, 177½, ran his win streak to 10 by winning an eight-round decision over Cardiff's Winston Burnett, 177. Peters dominated until the seventh when Burnett, who was having his second fight in eight days and the 99th of his career, scored with a hard right. Peters survived to get the nod of referee Ritchie Davies, 79-77½.

Darren Dyer, 148½, Islington, stopped Harlein Holden, 151½, United States, at 1:20 of the second of a scheduled six to raise his record to 7-2. Holden hurt Dyer in the first, but Dyer floored him with a right in the second, then dropped him for the count with two rights to the body and one to the chin.

Nigel Wenton, 133½, Liverpool, won his fourth straight when Kid Sumaila, 132½, London via Ghana, retired at the end of the third of their scheduled six, two-minute round affair with an injured hand. Wenton was winning handily and impressively.

Derek Grainger, 153½, Bethnal Green, ran his undefeated mark to 6-0 by stopping Rhyl's Gary Dyson, 153½, at 1:56 of the fourth. The match was six two-minute rounds.

Gary Logan, 147, Croydon, breezed in his six-rounder (two-minute rounds) against Barking's Tony Gibbs, also 147, winning the vote of referee Paddy Sower 59½-58½. The win was Logan's second.

Ray Webb 161¾, London, made a successful pro bow in the six-twos opener, stopping Sheffield's Doug Calderwood, 164, in the last frame. Calderwood was down in the second, cut on the forehead in the fifth and down for good at 1:30 of the sixth.
(11-2-88)

AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1988

HEAVYWEIGHTS
(No Weight Limit)
WORLD CHAMPION

MIKE TYSON	New York
1. **Evander Holyfield**	Georgia
2. **Carl Williams**	New Jersey
3. **Adilson Rodrigues**	Brazil
4. **Tim Witherspoon**	Pennsylvania
5. **Michael Dokes**	Ohio
6. **Donovan Ruddock**	Canada
7. **Tony Tucker**	Michigan
8. **Orlin Norris**	California
9. **James Douglas**	Ohio
10. **Pinklon Thomas**	Michigan

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
(Not Over 175 Pounds)
WORLD CHAMPION
TITLE VACANT

1. **Charles Williams**	Ohio
2. **Virgil Hill**	North Dakota
3. **Ray Leonard**	Maryland
4. **Dennis Andries**	England
5. **Don Lalonde**	Canada
6. **Tony Willis**	Illinois
7. **Bobby Czyz**	New Jersey
8. **Lindell Holmes**	Michigan
9. **Graciano Rocchigiani**	Germany
10. **Joe Lasisi**	Nigeria

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
(Not Over 160 Pounds)
WORLD CHAMPION

SUMBU KALAMBAY	Italy
1. **Michael Nunn**	California
2. **Iran Barkley**	New York
3. **Ray Leonard**	Maryland
4. **Thomas Hearns**	Michigan
5. **Herol Graham**	England
6. **Mike McCallum**	Jamaica
7. **Robert Hines**	Pennsylvania
8. **Donald Curry**	Texas
9. **Julian Jackson**	Virgin Islands
10. **Matthew Hilton**	Canada

WELTERWEIGHTS
(Not Over 147 Pounds)
WORLD CHAMPION

LLOYD HONEYGHAN	England
1. **Simon Brown**	Washington, D.C.
2. **Tomas Molinares**	Colombia
3. **Marlon Starling**	Connecticut
4. **Maurice Blocker**	Washington, D.C.
5. **Roger Mayweather**	Nevada
6. **Mark Breland**	New York
7. **Meldrick Taylor**	Pennsylvania
8. **Harold Brazier**	Indiana
9. **Manning Galloway**	Ohio
10. **Juan Martin Coggi**	Argentina

LIGHTWEIGHTS
(Not Over 135 Pounds)
WORLD CHAMPION

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ	Mexico
1. **Greg Haugen**	Washington
2. **Pernell Whitaker**	Virginia
3. **Jose Luis Ramirez**	Mexico
4. **Edwin Rosario**	Puerto Rico
5. **Amancio Castro**	Colombia
6. **Azumah Nelson**	Ghana
7. **Tony Lopez**	California
8. **Anthony Jones**	Michigan
9. **Rocky Lockridge**	New Jersey
10. **Brian Mitchell**	South Africa

FEATHERWEIGHTS
(Not Over 126 Pounds)
WORLD CHAMPION

ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA	Venezuela
1. **Jeff Fenech**	Australia
2. **Jorge Paez**	Mexico
3. **Calvin Grove**	Pennsylvania
4. **Marcos Villasana**	Mexico
5. **Juan Jose Estrada**	Mexico
6. **Jeff Franklin**	Nevada
7. **Hector Lopez**	Mexico
8. **Jesus Poll**	California
9. **Louie Espinoza**	Arizona
10. **Jose Sanabria**	Venezuela

BANTAMWEIGHTS
(Not Over 118 Pounds)
WORLD CHAMPION
TITLE VACANT

1. **Raul Perez**	Mexico
2. **Kaosai Galaxy**	Thailand
3. **Miguel Lora**	Colombia
4. **Gilberto Roman**	Mexico
5. **Orlando Canizales**	Texas
6. **Sung-Kil Moon**	Korea
7. **Juan Carazo**	Puerto Rico
8. **Santos Laciar**	Argentina
9. **Kelvin Seabrooks**	South Carolina
10. **Kaokor Galaxy**	Thailand

FLYWEIGHTS
(Not Over 112 Pounds)
WORLD CHAMPION

YONG-KANG KIM	Korea
1. **Jung-Koo Chang**	Korea
2. **Sot Chitalada**	Thailand
3. **Fidel Bassa**	Colombia
4. **Myung-Woo Yuh**	Korea
5. **Hilario Zapata**	Panama
6. **Duke McKenzie**	England
7. **Dodie Penalosa**	Philippines
8. **Miguel Mercedes**	Dominican Republic
9. **Humberto Gonzales**	Mexico
10. **Ray Medel**	Texas

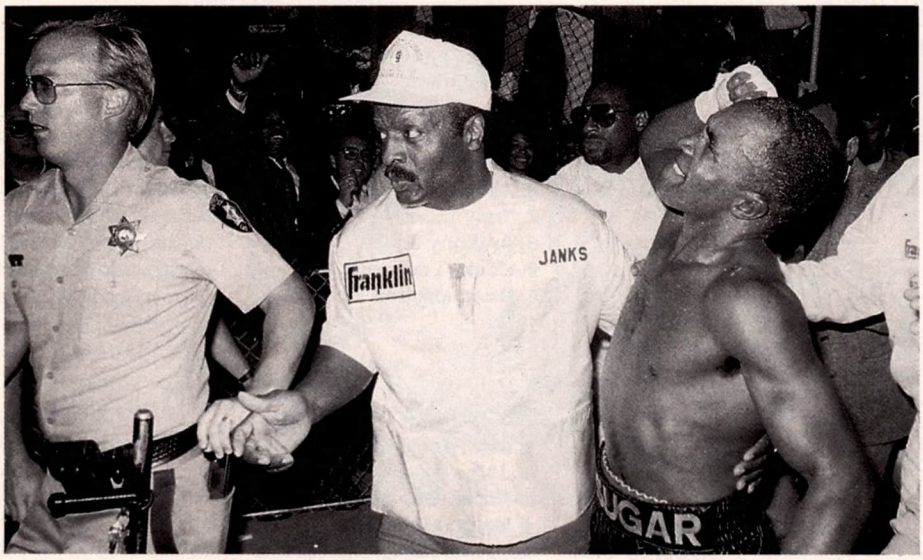


PHOTO BY COOPER STUDIOS

The thrill of victory. Leonard soaks up the cheers of the crowd at Caesars Palace as he is escorted back to his dressing room following his thrilling victory over Lalonde.

by Nigel Collins

LEONARD AT FINAL CROSS

Hearns Next For Sugar Ray, But History Beckons

FOR THOSE WHO STILL DON'T UNDERstand why Sugar Ray Leonard continues to fight, the expression on his face immediately after he stopped Donny Lalonde supplied the answer.

It was the look of rapture. For a frenzied minute of unadulterated joy, Leonard abandoned his usual conservative posture and cut loose in an unrestrained victory celebration. He jumped up on the ropes, thrust his fists towards the heavens and soaked in the adulation of his adoring public. This was the moment that made it all worth while, worth all the work and all the risks, an ultimate high only the ring can provide him. And if you looked into his eyes at that instant, you knew not only why he fights on, but that he would surely fight again.

ROADS?

Leonard can no more stay away from the boxing ring than his fellow multi-millionaires Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope can stay away from the stage. And while geriatric entertainers don't field too many overhand rights to the head, the syndrome is basically the same. After a certain point, money, though important, is not the driving force. No, the overpowering motivation for men like Leonard is to keep doing the thing that gives them their greatest pleasure, their very identity. And for all his cosmopolitan airs, Leonard remains, first and foremost — a fighter.

Then again, perhaps the comparison to Hope and Sinatra isn't altogether fair to Leonard. For though he may have slowed down half a step, Sugar Ray retains much of the magic which has made him the finest boxer of the post-Ali generation. And while he may have alienated some with his dilettante-like attitude toward the sport in recent years, many of us still feel privileged to watch his artistry whenever the opportunity arises.

This time Leonard, 32, promised no retirement announcements and so far he's kept his word, saying only that he wanted to go home, relish his latest triumph and enjoy the holiday season before deciding his next move. Nevertheless, even before the first bell sounded for his bout with Lalonde, rumors of a rematch with Thomas Hearns were already flying almost as fast as Leonard's fists.

Three nights prior to Leonard's knockout over Lalonde, Hearns barely managed to survive 12 rugged rounds with James Kinchen, coming away with a hotly disputed decision. On the strength of nostalgia, as much as this questionable victory, Hearns probably finally will get the one fight he's been dreaming of since Leonard handed him his first defeat back in 1981.

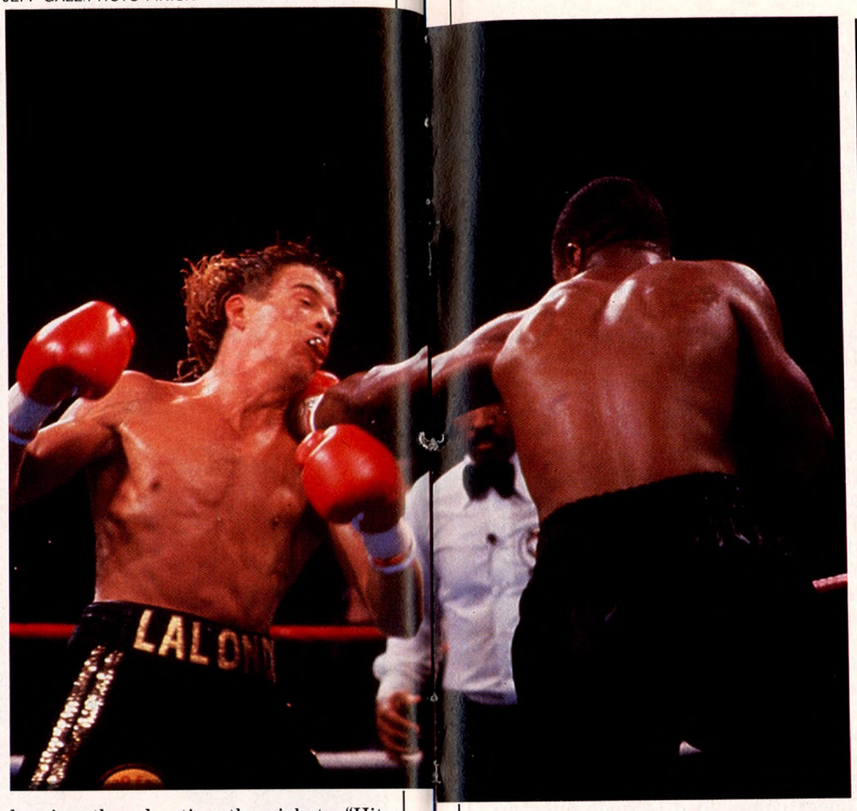
While Leonard has enjoyed nothing but success since that memorable encounter, Hearns' life inside the ropes has been a turbulent roller coaster ride. Losing to Marvelous Marvin Hagler in one of boxing history's most glorious punchouts didn't hurt his standing too much, but the knockout defeat to Iran Barkley made lots of folks figure it was time for Tommy to hang up his gloves. The close call against Kinchen did little to dispel this notion.

Though he stopped short of confirming a rematch with Hearns, Leonard took the precaution of providing his old foe with an alibi for his shaky performance against Kinchen.

"Hearns' problem has been he thinks about me more than he thinks about his opponent," informed Mr. Modesty. "He thought about me before the Barkley fight and he thought about me before he fought Kinchen. I made that mistake once, when I fought Kevin Howard."

Certainly, Hearns' recent form has taken some of the lustre off their long-awaited encore, but the bout retains a marketable amount of marquee value and is the most logical next step in Leonard's storybook career. However, if Leonard is interested in his eventual place in boxing annals, he's in a perfect position to attempt a feat far more challenging than beating the rickety "Hit Man." In fact, Leonard is standing on the threshold of history and nobody seems to have noticed.

JEFF GALE/PHOTO FINISH



Ray Leonard jolts Donny Lalonde's head back with a punishing left jab. It was the punch that paved Sugar Ray's road to victory.

Lost among the insulting hype about five so-called world championships and two-for-the-price-of-one title bouts is the fact Leonard is now within punching range of joining Henry Armstrong and Bob Fitzsimmons in boxing's most exclusive club — fighters who have won legitimate world titles in three of boxing's traditional eight weight divisions.

All he has to do is unify the light heavyweight title.

Even though Leonard said the Lalonde fight proved to him he wasn't a light heavyweight, he's been known to change his mind before. Unifying the 175-pound crown would be an achievement unparalleled since the incomparable Armstrong simultaneously held the featherweight, lightweight and welterweight titles in 1938. It would also provide Leonard with the opportunity to accomplish something which eluded even his peerless namesake. For when Sugar Ray Robinson melted in a sauna known as Yankee Stadium on a sweltering July night in 1952, so did his dream of adding the light heavyweight belt to the welter and middleweight crowns already in his collection.

A lumpy-looking, light-punching bag of guile and guts named Joey Maxim stood between Robinson and his triple crown. A couple of capable gentlemen by the names of "Prince" Charles Williams and Virgil Hill stand in the path of Leonard and boxing's greatest hat trick. The resurrected Williams owns the IBF third of the title, while Olympic late-bloomer Hill holds down the fort over in WBA-ville. Both appear to be at least as good as Lalonde, if not better.

While this line of thought may very well fall into the realm of wishful thinking, such a course of action might do for Leonard outside the ring what the Lalonde victory did for him inside — restore the public's faith.

Critics have frequently accused Leonard of picking his spots, looking for any easy mark to stroke his ego and fatten his bank account. Fighting Williams or Hill should silence any carping along those lines. But realistically, even if Leonard goes for the gusto and attempts to unite the title for the first time since Michael Spinks abdicated in 1985, he's not going to fight both of the other claimants.

A more feasible scenario would be Hill and Williams duking it out for the honor of meeting His Sweetness in a final showdown for the whole light heavyweight enchilada. Such a plan would enliven a semi-comatose division and give Leonard time to get reacquainted with Hearns in the meantime. Although granting Leonard a "bye" may not sound fair at first, where else could Hill or Williams earn the kind of purse and press such a box-off would create?

But while *The Ring* fans the flames in an effort to persuade Leonard into reaching for the stars, others are already busy banging the drums for Leonard-Hearns II.

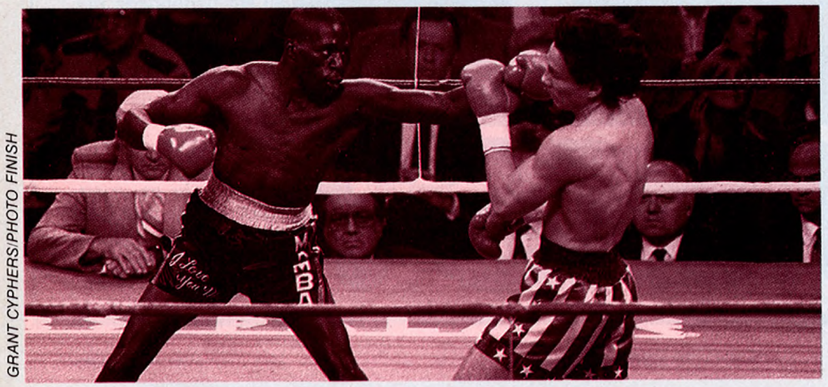
"To me a Leonard-Hearns rematch will be a lot like the "Thrilla In Manila," said Rich Rose, president of Caesars World Sports. "It will be two great fighters in the twilight of their careers getting together one final time. While Hearns appears to be slipping a bit, I'm sure he'll really be up for Leonard. And if he sticks and moves, instead of going

BRING ON CHAVEZ!

Mayweather Wants Chavez Following Foul-Infested Win Over Pazienza

by Jack Welsh

Roger Mayweather (left) kept his jab in Vinny Pazienza's face for the entire 12 rounds, retaining his WBC super lightweight title via a unanimous decision.



GRANT CYPHERS/PHOTO FINISH

LAS VEGAS — IF ROGER MAYWEATHER gets his druthers in February, defending his WBC super lightweight title against Julio Cesar Chavez in Los Angeles, the lucrative session might seem like a Sunday stroll compared to the last time the Las Vegan went to war.

It doesn't bother Mayweather that super star Chavez, a national hero in Mexico, will be the betting choice.

Promoter Don King's latest dream (providing he can keep Chavez content) is a millionaire evening, probably at the Inglewood Forum. Mayweather also gets a chance to avenge an earlier loss to Chavez at 130 pounds. But equally important to the 140-pound ruler, he'll be contesting with a craftsman who has great skill and has never been mistaken for "a billygoat."

Such is the identification the 27-year-old Mayweather bestowed on his last challenger, Vinny Pazienza, after punishing him — a pre-fight promise — every step of the way in a lopsided 12-round victory where the action would have been more appropriate in a ghetto alley than Caesars Palace.

Mayweather earned $250,000 for the fourth defense of his second title since turning pro here in 1981. It wasn't quite Fritzie Zivic and Al "Bummy" Davis in New York in November, 1940 (they had only one target, the groin). But it wasn't far off.

For this one, there is no better description than "free-for-all." Everybody got into the act. Referee Mills Lane, a district attorney in Reno's Washoe County, had his hands full breaking the rivals at the bell, and sometimes just missed getting tagged himself when first one fighter then the other would instigate punching after the bell. It was not one of Lane's better nights.

From the outset, it was clear Mayweather's snapping left jab proved to be his road to victory, with the knockout right always at the ready. If Roger is to be faulted in this assignment, it might be that he didn't throw the right often enough.

Beyond a heart bigger than Texas, Pazienza's ringstyle is no style, pardon that old ring cliche. As one press row wag suggested, "Mama and Papa Pazienza better take some good pictures of that kid because someday they're going to mistake him for a peddler."

By the 11th round, Pazienza was hanging gamely on heart and little else. As the round wound down, Mayweather dropped him with a vicious right uppercut.

It was one of Mayweather's most decisive decision victories as a professional. Judges Lou Filippo of Los Angeles and Vince Delgado of San Diego both had it 117-110, while Las Vegan Dalby Shirley saw it 118-108. *The Ring*'s scorecard was 118-110.

At the final bell, Lou Duva, Pazienza's trainer and one of boxing's more volatile cornermen, charged across the ring, trying to get at Mayweather, who was still engaging his challenger. As Duva accosted Mayweather, he caught a right uppercut and was knocked to the canvas.

"Pazienza hit me and I returned the favor and Duva came after me like I was doing something dirty or something," said Mayweather. "This is the third occasion something like this has happened with Duva. I don't know if I hit him, but there was a big bruise. Whatever I tried to do, I had bad intentions."

The Nevada State Athletic Commission immediately suspended the 67-year-old Duva pending review of the fight film. Dan Duva, the trainer's son and president of Main Events Boxing, said, "It was very simple — the film clearly shows there's nothing subject to interpretation. My dad jumped into the ring, then the fighters broke it up and turned and walked away. He got up to Mayweather, though, and Mayweather took a swing at him and hit him with his fist. My father didn't go after Mayweather, but by the time he got to the boxers, they had stopped punching and he was face to face with Roger. It was blown out of proportion. It was an emotional moment and there's no hard feelings now. We don't want Mayweather suspended and we don't think Lou should be either."

Mayweather, improving his credentials to 33-5, 22 KOs, enjoyed reviewing his demolition of Pazienza, who earned $100,000 as his record dipped to 25-3, 22 KOs. □

for the knockout, it could be a very competitive fight."

To say Caesars Palace is definitely interested in the match would be an understatement.

How well Caesars Palace fared with the Leonard-Lalonde show is open to interpretation. Though the pay-per-view sold well (a record $19.5 million, according to distributor Titan Entertainment), the fight wasn't the box office bonanza to which Sugar Ray is accustomed. Caesars announced a crowd of 13,246 for a live gate of $7.5 million. However, the Nevada Athletic Commission claimed the actual paid attendance was 5,590, contributing only $2.8 million to the coffers. While Rose declined to comment on the discrepancy, one can assume the host casino padded the house with even more comps than usual.

Part of the problem surrounding the promotion was the general perception of Lalonde, 28, as a less-than-formidable opponent. This was fed, in part, by media grumbling which focused on Lalonde instead of lampooning the phony titles supposedly at stake. This misguided criticism painted the Canadian "Golden Boy" as a no-hoper, who had no business in the ring with Leonard in the first place.

Despite the fact both Lalonde and the fight eventually proved eminently worthy, the aura of excitement which normally envelopes Las Vegas during a big fight was conspicuously absent. It isn't something you can really put your finger on, but the lack of a "buzz" was obvious soon after you stepped off the plane. Even the cabbies were strangely oblivious to the impending hostilities.

Leonard's popularity slipped a tad, partly because of the feeling that he was "butting in line" again, ahead of other, more active contenders. His image was further eroded when he split with long-time trainer Angelo Dundee. The parting of the ways came when Dundee wanted to have a lawyer negotiate his fee. Leonard and his attorney, Mike Trainer, took exception and Dundee told them he wasn't working without a contract. It marked the first time Leonard had fought as a pro without Dundee in his corner and many observers thought this may come back to haunt Ray if the going got tough.

As things worked out, when crunch time came, Leonard did just fine without the lovable Dundee present to give him counsel. Reliable hands Janks Morton, Dave Jacobs and Jose Correa were more than equal to the task and the Dundee controversy proved a non-factor.

The appeal of Leonard's first adventure at such a high weight bracket was also slightly diluted by the attention given to the Hearns-Kinchen card. Cynics went so far as to suggest Bob Arum picked a date just three days prior as a thinly veiled effort to hurt the Leonard-Lalonde promotion. Top Rank's head honcho was reportedly miffed because Leonard and Lalonde turned down his bid in favor of promoting the bout themselves. In a way, this was one of the most intriguing aspects of the entire affair. If the television revenue lives up to early prognostications, more and more boxers may follow in Leonard and Lalonde's footsteps.

Naturally, this turn of events has given people like Arum and arch rival Don King plenty of food for thought. It could also be a stumbling block to a Leonard-Hearns rematch.

Leonard and Trainer have sworn never to work with Arum again, but Hearns and his manager Emanuel Steward have long been loyal to Arum. Though Hearns has enough money in the bank to risk alienating Uncle Bob, Steward has the rest of his Kronk stable to worry about. But with so many dollars at stake, it is unlikely Arum would block the match. The most likely solution would be to pay Arum a hefty fee to step aside.

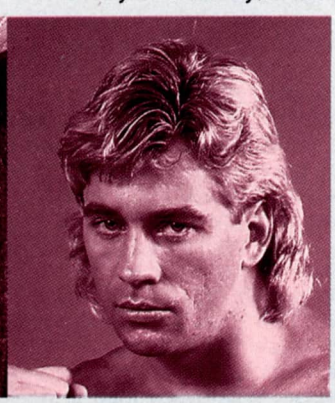
In spite of Leonard and Lalonde's business partnership, all was not sweetness and light between the camps in the weeks leading up to the fight. Trainer complained Lalonde failed to live up to some promotional obligations and was hurting the show. This

Tangled Up in the Blue Section

by Phil Woolever

Bob Dylan: Lalonde fan.

Donny Lalonde: Dylan fan.



AT A BIG FIGHT, THOSE SO INCLINED MAY gawk at a ringside swarm of "stars," and others announced as such. Shouts from the grandstand indicate public opinion as the noteworthy arrive. For Leonard-Lalonde, Caesars Palace issued a lengthy press release in the form of a guest list of names like Stallone, Whoopie, Bo and Trump. Somebody left off Ali and Tyson, who got the most applause. Still, only one artist on the sheet could claim "Like a Rolling Stone" and "Just Like a Woman" and Bob Dylan's listing was as unique as he was, sitting among names which help keep *The National Enquirer* selling. In fact, that tabloid sent a reporter just in case some gossip broke out between rounds. Most folks paid from 200 to 800 hundred bucks to sit on stained metal in the bleachers, while a couple hundred more dollars got you closer with a white plastic folding seat. The bigshots got escorted to well padded blue chairs to rest their wallets on. Dylan sat restlessly, staring ahead.

In contradictions consistent with boxing chemistry the richest people in the place get free tickets. Many with little interest in boxing got the best view. Amidst thick hoopla, Dylan was the stranger in his proverbial "strange land" where "stand when they cheer" was the rule. During the ovation for

hardly seemed to be the case as the countdown reached the final stages. The pride of Winnipeg was accessible to the press and generally impressed everyone with his pleasing personality and admirable determination to knock the smirk off Leonard's face. He also came up with the best pre-fight quote when Leonard weighed-in at a career-high 165 pounds.

"I felt bad enough about fighting an old welterweight," quipped Lalonde. "But now I'm fighting a fat, old welterweight."

Of course, Leonard's weight, like so much of his game, was merely an illusion. After the fight Ray claimed he'd weighed in with a roll of silver dollars in each pocket of his warm-up suit. And looking at his finely honed physique and seeing his still dazzling speed, one has to take him at his word.

Lalonde, who always claimed he'd had to bulk up for his light heavyweight bouts, came in at an equally well-conditioned 167. When all was said and done, the need for a super middleweight class was even more dubious after the fight than before. The ability to beat a naturally bigger man has long been the mark of outstanding boxers. From Fitzsimmons to Dick Tiger, great middleweights have always been able to hold their own in the light heavyweight division. It was no different with Sugar Ray.

IT WAS WINDY AND A MILD CHILL BLEW off the desert. As challenger, Leonard was first to enter the outdoor ring to the cheers of the faithful. Lalonde followed shortly thereafter, also to a rousing welcome. Both were decked out in black outfits trimmed with gold.

Both looked subdued and serious. After snappy renditions of the Canadian and American national anthems (performed by Chuck Mangione and the Pointer Sisters, respectively), referee Richard Steele gave the combatants their final instructions. Seconds later, the opening bell sent both men out to meet their fates.

The first round was rather tepid, sort of like watching a scatback dance away from a linebacker behind the line of scrimmage without moving the ball downfield. Leonard did pop in a few jabs and one solid right, and at the round-ending bell, one know-it-all in the press section, anxious to share his expertise with all in attendance, yelled, "You've seen the whole act." But of course, we hadn't.

Leonard's boxing skills kept him in control in the second. You could almost see him thinking as he ducked under Lalonde's explosive right on the outside and smothered his attack at close range. It was another dull session, but Leonard connected with enough jabs to win the round on two of three official score cards.

Lalonde picked up the pace in Round Three, landing a left-right and letting Leonard know he wasn't alone upon the stage. Another right by Lalonde at the bell gave him a clear edge, but few suspected the fireworks to erupt the next round.

It was Leonard's turn to pick up the tempo at the start of the fourth. He landed a left to the body and a right to the head in combination, then repeated the process in reverse. But Lalonde was not awed. He kept plugging, and when Leonard threw a semi-lazy left, Donny came over the top with a hefty right. It caught Ray on the side of his head as he ducked. The punch was good enough to send Leonard sprawling to the canvas for only the second knockdown of his pro career.

A review of the tape reveals Leonard was uncharacteristically off-balance, his legs spread wide, when Lalonde connected with his blockbuster. Sugar Ray was up by the count of three, but the entire complexion of the bout had changed. It was as if someone had flipped a switch in Leonard's mindset. Forget about a boxing match, now it was a fight!

Lalonde did his best to finish the job. He bustled the grasping Leonard into the ropes and scored with a good left hook and another potent right. Ray held again.

Leonard, seething but controlled, his name, Dylan was in Lalonde's dressing room. A friend of Lalonde's, Dylan fit in, and prior to the fight his acoustic classics soundtracked the psych session. A Lalonde promotional video had been shown endlessly around Caesar's. It featured the chorus "Winnepeg boy, this is your night," but "Hard Rain's Gonna Fall" was the appropriate theme.

Unlike most of Lalonde's entourage, Dylan didn't sport the "No Excuse for Child Abuse" blazer. The troubled troubador wore the standard Rolling Thunder regalia of jeans, ruffled white dress shirt and familiar vest. There was no facade of gold, diamonds, or expensive tailoring. Dylan looked like someone you could talk about the fights with. It was a correct impression.

Dylan was sullen while most of the other privileged headed off without concern to wherever they would get or have to give the next comp. Security workers on Caesars' farm kept souvenir hounds outside the gates of ringside Eden. Many Dylan faithful lined up around the blue seats just to get a view of their hero.

The evening had worked the singer over from the time he was subjected to Leonard's entrance with a frequently skipping version of Michael Jackson's "Bad." Dylan remarked we weren't in the best place to talk about boxing. He was depressed and sat rolling with imaginary punches like many fans do during a bout but there wasn't a fight going on. As Chuck Hull announced the time of the knockout, Dylan draped his head over the back of his chair like Lalonde had under the final barrage. His greyed mane fell back regally. "You're my hero, Bob!" somebody said as the bodyguards blocked his approach.

"I thought it was sad," Dylan said, regarding the battle in a monotone. There he broke into a strange little guffaw, adding "I thought Donny was gonna go a little longer, ya know?"

We agreed it had been a good, tough fight, with Lalonde's share of moments. Dylan said, "I'm not a fight fan, I just like to watch guys I know fight." But his temporary enthusiasm contradicted the statement. Dylan's eyes came to life as he spoke of long jabs to the body, crashing right hands and Leonard's trip to the canvas. The subject shifted as Dylan admired Sugar's longevity. I mentioned his own and Dylan didn't respond. A bodyguard said it was exit time. I asked Dylan if he had seen Hurricane Carter since his release. Dylan gazed at me as if it was a ridiculous question. That made me decide it was, but I still didn't know the answer. "You're my hero, Bob!" said a different voice in the crowd.

There's a classic, tough little bar on the Boulder Highway where I always stop on the way back to Arizona. The only celebrity list they keep is for the people who've been 86'd (kicked out) for life. I was thinking about how Dylan might have sung the National Anthem before the fight when a wiseguy who had lost his bet lamented a familiar line into his beer. "Lalonde shoulda won man." Then his face brightened. "But you know what? I saw Bob Dylan in real life." I smiled at the coincidence.

"Here's my Lalonde imitation," a dancer said as she dropped to the floor on her back. I asked if there was any Dylan on the jukebox. "We used to have a lot," said the bartender with a smile. "But she knows 'Lay Lady Lay." He pointed to the dancer. "We used to have a lot of Dylan," repeated the girl, "but the times they are a changin'. . ."

I finished my beer smiling and wished I could have spoke to Dylan there instead. It seemed like a place he'd like, real people, real stories, no facades or hype. The kind of place we could have talked about the fights. □

quickly cleaned the cobwebs and fought back with vigor. His jab found a home in Lalonde's face as their struggle built in intensity. At the bell, the crowd roared its approval for the adrenaline-pumping action.

Those who have doubted Leonard's love for down-and-dirty war in the trenches got a surprise in the fifth. Having his bell rung and his ego ruffled in the previous three minutes of combat was probably the best thing that could have happened to him. Ray rushed to re-establish his authority, moving inside behind his punishing left jab. The exchanges were brisk as Lalonde answered a crisp one-two from Leonard with a thumping right of his own.

You could almost see the ring rust peeling away as Leonard opened-up with both barrels. He plastered Donny with rapid-fire combinations, snapping his head back on his shoulders and sending sweat flying from his bleached blond hair. At one point it looked like Lalonde was ready to go, but for some inexplicable reason, Steele broke the fighters at a critical juncture and gave the stricken Canadian a much-needed respite.

Leonard continued his attack in the sixth. An early left hook followed by a right kept Sugar Ray's rally clicking. But just when it looked like Lalonde would be swept away by a blur of leather, he countered with a right to the head that was at least as hard as the shot which floored Leonard two rounds earlier. This time Leonard had his feet well positioned and clinched before further damage could be done. The moment passed and as the round drew to a close, Leonard was fighting back effectively.

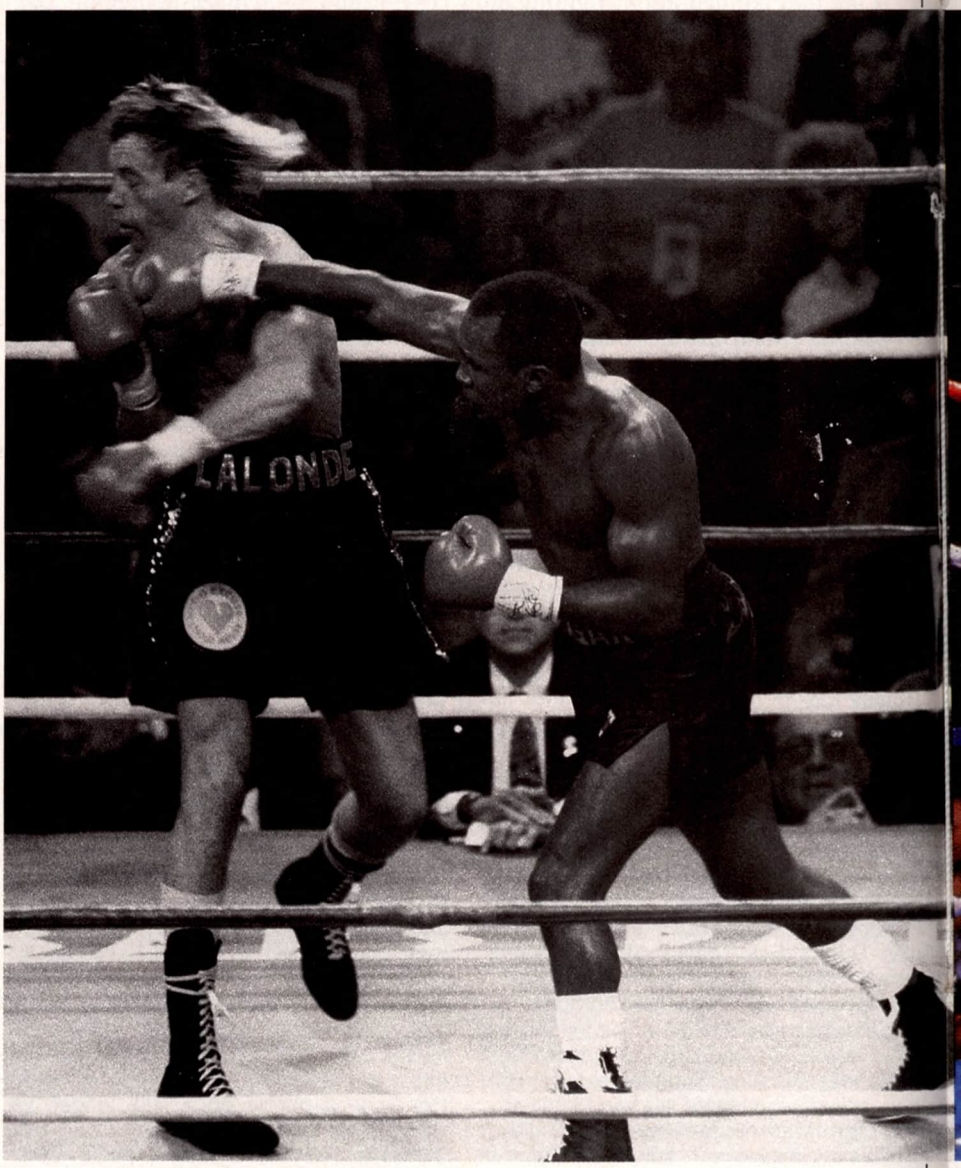
As the seventh opened, it rapidly became apparent Lalonde had just about shot his bolt. He was visibly fatigued and at times meekly stuck his left hand out in a feeble attempt to keep his tormentor at bay. Leonard was having none of it. He smashed Donny's head back with a massive overhand right to the face and proceeded to batter his brave but outclassed adversary from one side of the ring to another. He was doing what he does best and savoring every second of it.

Round Seven was such a big one for Leonard, judge Chuck Giampa gave him a two-point margin. The eighth wasn't quite as brutal, but except for a single right by Lalonde, the session was all Leonard. The left hook had become a major weapon for him and Sugar Ray closed the canto with a good one.

Always a beautiful finisher, Leonard gave a vintage example of the art in Round Nine. Despite his weariness, Lalonde was still dangerous. He connected with one more right hand bomb early in the round and then cut loose with a last-gasp flurry. Leonard cagily rode out the storm, and when Lalonde was spent, he raged back ruthlessly. His final barrage was a masterpiece of clinical savagery.

Leonard's fists were like twin lasers, cutting through Lalonde's ravaged defenses with frightening ease. A painful-looking right to the body set the stage for a withering series of blows, most of which landed flush on Lalonde's blood-spattered head. Left-right, left-right, left-right crashed home with sickening regularity. How Lalonde stood up under such an assault as long as he did remains a mystery. But his agony was almost at an end.

As Lalonde groped at Leonard in an effort to force a clinch, Ray pushed him away and hooked hard with his left. Lalonde fell over backwards and hit the floor with a thud. He rolled over and wobbled to his feet, a vacant look in his eyes. The lights may have been on, but nobody was home. Perhaps be-



Leonard (right) connected with his straight right early and often. This one snaps Lalonde's head sideways in one direction and sends his hair flying in another.

PHOTO FINISH/GRANT CYPHERS

cause of the magnitude of the event, or maybe because Leonard had been down earlier and fought back so well, Steele allowed the rout to continue.

Leonard was not to be denied. He backed poor Donny into a corner and showed no mercy. A right twisted Lalonde's neck sideways and a follow-up left put him down again. He fell halfway out of the ring and lay briefly on the apron curled in a modified fetal position. Game to the last, he instinctively tried to regain his feet. But this time Steele had seen enough and stopped the carnage at 2:30. It was the only humane thing to do. The remaining half minute may have proved Lalonde's last on this planet if Leonard had been permitted to keep punching.

Thankfully, Lalonde seemed none the worse for wear when he appeared before the press 20 minutes later. His attractive mug was nicked and slightly swollen, but no permanent damage was evident. The man who had won as many fans in defeat as he had in all his previous victories was disappointed, but hardly despondent.

Referee Richard Steele counts over Lalonde following the first knockdown. Though Donny got up, Sugar Ray soon finished the job.

GRANT CYPHERS/PHOTO FINISH

"I lost to a great fighter," admitted Lalonde, who saw his pro ledger dip to 31-3 with 26 KOs. "Sugar Ray took a lot of good shots, he's just a little better fighter than I am. I expected a helluva fight out of Ray, but I was surprised by his durability. I thought I had him all through the fight. I felt I was way ahead. Obviously, according to the score cards, I wasn't." Actually, judge Stuart Kirschenbaum did have Donny ahead, 76-75, at the end of eight, but Giampa and judge Franz Marti had more representative scores of 77-74 and 77-75, respectively, for Leonard.

"I have to rate him highly," added Lalonde. "I've whipped a lot of good fighters and tonight I almost whipped a great one. I think I'll be back."

In a way, the loss did Lalonde very little harm. He was lightly regarded going in, but earned everyone's respect and is sure to come again.

For all his passion in the ring, Leonard was back to blase by the time he addressed the media mob.

"This fight indicated this man is for real. Lalonde is a credit to boxing," emphasized Leonard, as if to answer all those who questioned his opponent's qualifications. When asked if he'd been hurt, Ray's reply, despite the fact he was still leaking blood from a laceration on the bridge of his nose, was typically nonchalant.

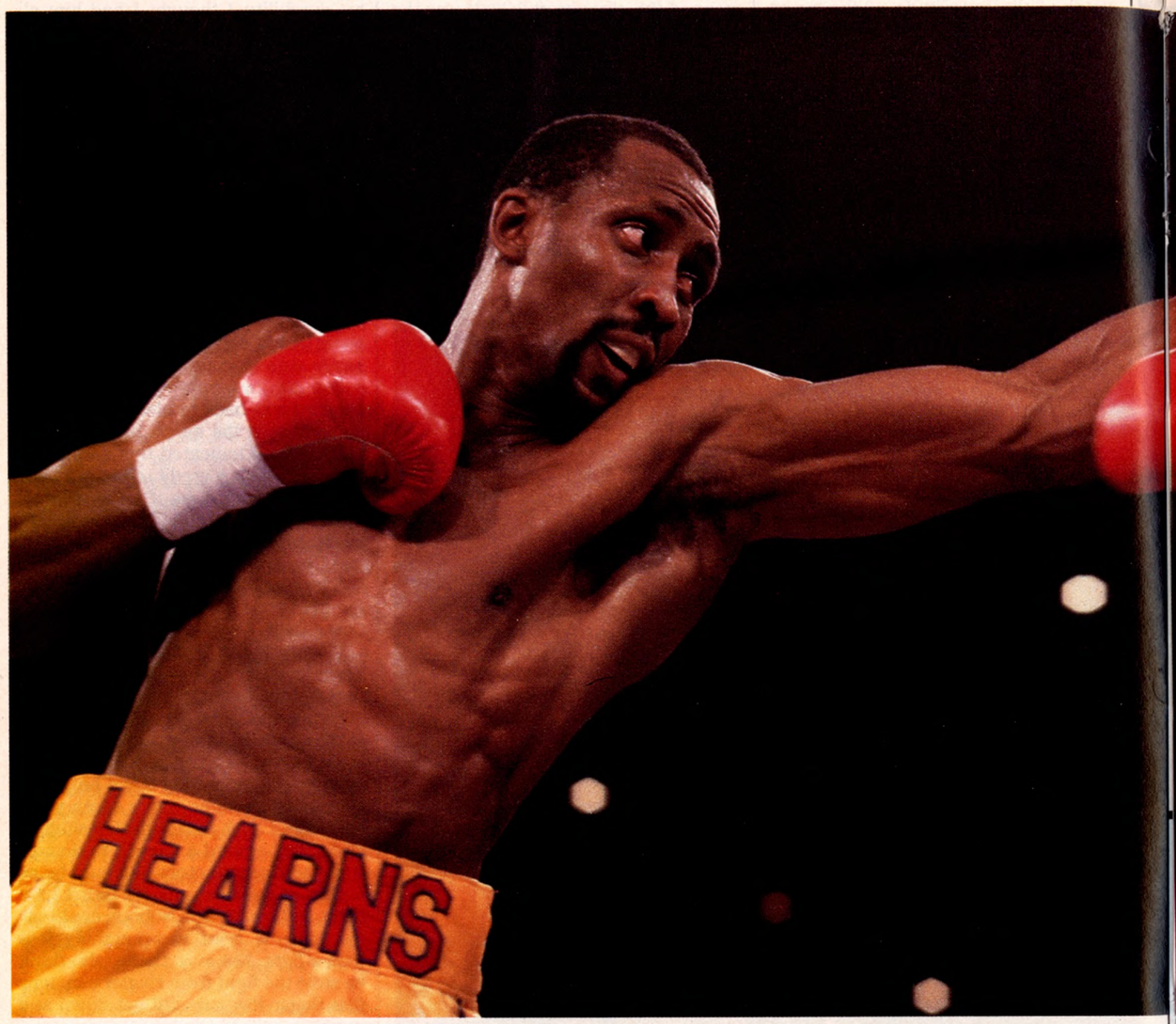
"I wasn't hurt. It was similar to the Kevin Howard fight — just a matter of time before I caught him."

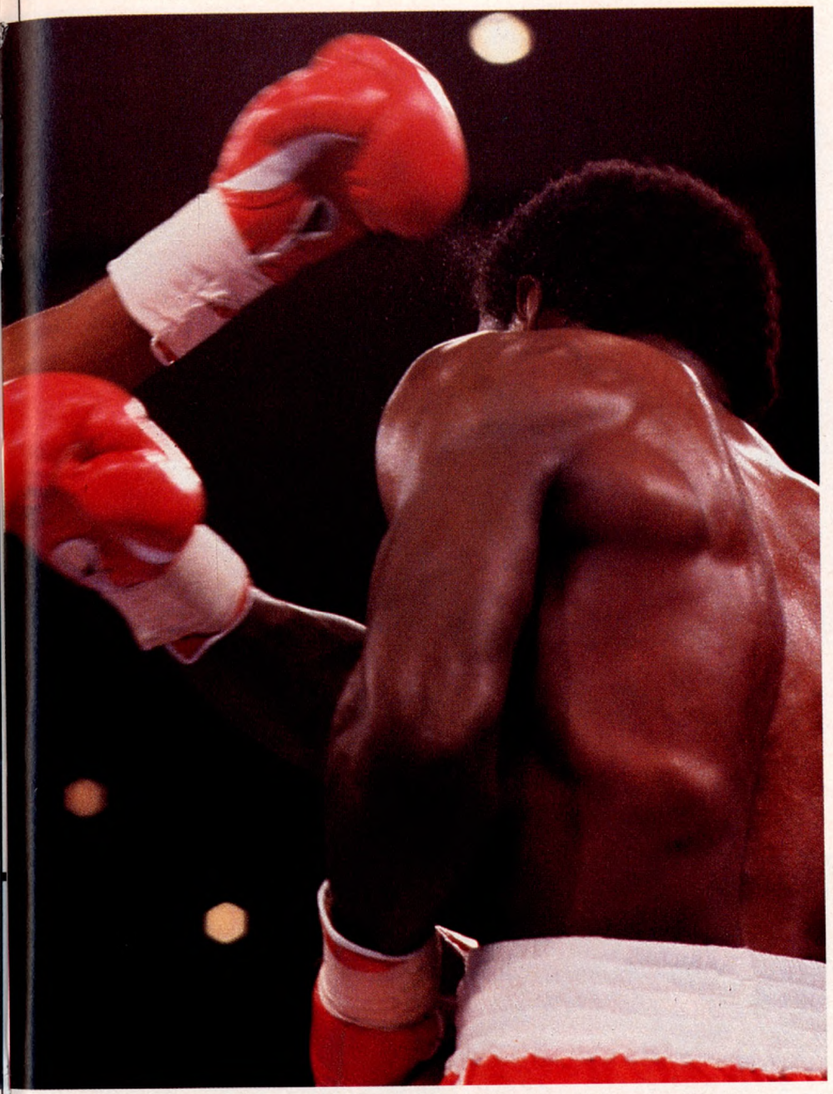
Leonard, who raised his career totals to 35-1 with 25 KOs, made it all sound so easy, but in truth it had been his most punishing outing since he TKO'd Hearns at the same venue seven years earlier. But such a hard-hitting slugfest also gave Leonard a chance to demonstrate to his detractors he could be as macho as the next guy. He didn't have to hit-and-run to win. Nobody could say the Lalonde bout was anything less than a fight. Not even those who think he stole the fight from Hagler can deny that Sugar Ray can still get down and rumble.

Love him or hate him, it's impossible to deny Leonard's greatness. The only question that remains is the extent of his greatness.

Leonard is at another crossroads. Perhaps his last. A second win over Hearns will pad his already bulging bank vault and silence a whole lot of "Hit Man" fans, but will do little to enhance his standing among boxing immortals. On the other hand, winning the light heavyweight title outright would be the jewel in his crown.

It's a proposition well worth considering, especially for a man whose gift has always proven equal to his ego. □





"HIT MAN" "THE IN

by Jack Welsh

photos by Chris Farina

EDGES HEAT" SCORCHER

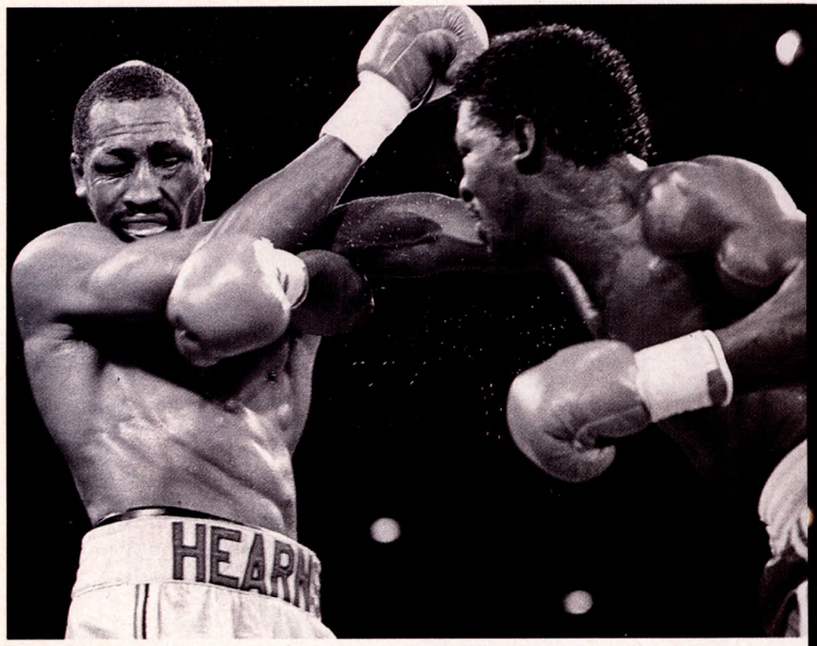
Hearns Still Wants Sugar Ray Following Close Call Against Kinchen

THREE NIGHTS AFTER HE APPEARED one punch away from permanent retirement, Thomas Hearns was sitting in the late autumn air at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas cheering his head off for Sugar Ray Leonard. Despite a life-and-death struggle earlier to get past James Kinchen, the 30-year-old Hit Man from Detroit remained obsessed with turning back the clock seven years in an attempt to alter the scenario when Leonard rallied in the 14th round to hammer Hearns into his first professional defeat.

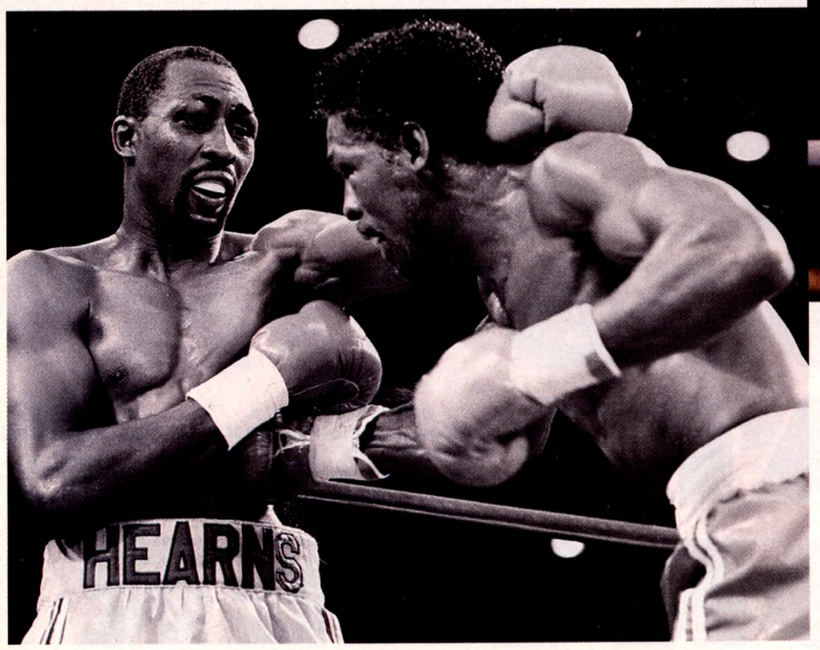
In the ensuing years, defeat has been a rarity as Hearns (45-3 with 38 KOs) became the first fighter in history to win so-called world titles in four different weight classes while soaring to affluence as a multi-millionaire. Thomas didn't lose much stature losing to Marvelous Marvin Hagler in 1985 because it was considered by many as the greatest three rounds in ring annals for pure savagery. But Iran Barkley was different.

Emanuel Steward's greatest endorsement for the Kronk Gym in Motown was only seconds away from stopping blood-smeared Barkley last June in three rounds at the Las Vegas Hilton, site of his scorcher with Kinchen. Suddenly, the crude chopping Barkley landed two overhand rights and Hearns was unconscious, minus his WBC middleweight laurels.

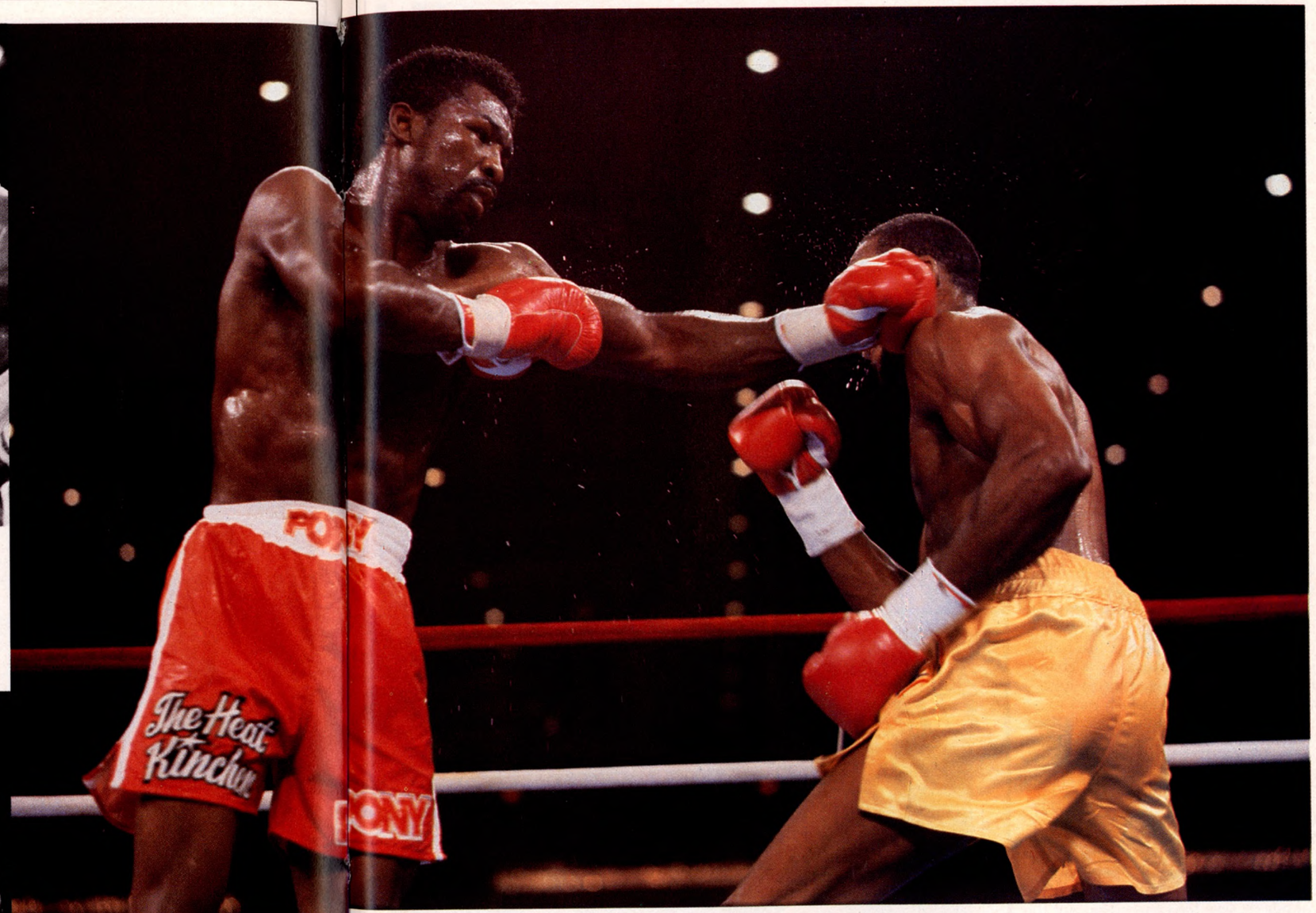
Championship belts notwithstanding, Hearns has only one more mission nagging his being before he allows himself to retire for keeps to the Motor City to raise his six-year-old daughter, Natasha. The mission, seemingly a step into pointless paranoia for the engaging Hearns, is called L-E-O-N-A-R-D, L-E-O-N-A-R-D, L-E-O-N-A-R-D.



Hearns tries to pull away from a left hook delivered by Kinchen. Note that Hearns' right eye is almost completely closed.



Kinchen (left) fought the fight of his career, but came up short when it came time to tally the score cards. Hearns took a lot of punishment, but survived to keep alive his dream of a rematch with Sugar Ray Leonard.



Some of Hearns' Kronk cronies joke, "If Tommy was a sleepwalker, he'd still be maneuvering himself toward Leonard."

Several hours before Leonard, that mythic fist-fighter now wheeling and dealing out of Potomac, Maryland, scrambled up from a fourth-round knockdown to stop Canada's Donny Lalonde in the ninth round. Hearns was back campaigning for the rematch he blew in losing to Barkley.

"I'm here to be Ray's biggest fan for one night. I'll be the one to stand up and scream. They're going to think I'm the clown the way I'm acting. People are going to think we're the best of friends," explained Hearns.

"I would be more than happy just to fight Ray Leonard. I'd forget about Hagler and Barkley. Ray's a showboater and he said his memory of me was when I was on my back (losing to Barkley). I want my last memory of Leonard to be of him flat on his back in front of me."

Hearns' face was unmarked as he mingled with a super star ringside assembly, including Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson (promoter Don King never let the world heavyweight champion out of his sight). Gone was the lump under his right eye and other facial bruises acquired in taking Kinchen's newly won NABF 168-pound crown on a 12-round split decision.

Like Leonard, Hearns was on the canvas in the fourth round from Kinchen's chopping right hand. Unlike Sugar Ray, Thomas needed an armload of clinching to survive the round.

Perhaps Tommy was star-crossed for

this November assignment from the outset. Hearns' original ambition was to become the first boxer to collect parts of five so-called championships at different weights. He signed to challenge Venezuela's Fulgencio Obelmejias, the WBC super middleweight champion. Two weeks before the bout, the 35-year-old Obelmejias, training in Los Angeles, told promoter Bob Arum he "had severely bruised his rib cage in training and I have x-rays to prove it."

Disgruntled, Hearns told Steward he "didn't want to pass the show because of all the training we've put in, so find me somebody to fight." Kinchen became the perfect replacement, having won NABF recognition several weeks earlier with a 12-round decision over Marvin Mack at Lake Tahoe.

Kinchen, 31, out of San Diego, with a 44-4-2, 31 KOs record, was unranked by *The Ring* going in. Dubbed "The Heat" by his admirers, Kinchen was hot to trot when offered $150,000 for risking his national laurels against Hearns, who picked up a purse of $750,000.

Shortly before he fought to the ultimate, Kinchen told *The Ring*: "I would have beaten Hearns two years ago and it was very frustrating at the time that he wouldn't fight me. Let's say our relationship wasn't the sweetest, although the problems we had probably made me stronger. Regardless of the money, I took the fight because it's a chance for me and you don't want to miss it when opportunity knocks."

Once Obelmejias defected, Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler said Kinchen against Hearns "will be a better bout, far more competitive action than with Obelmejias." Trampler proved the perfect seer and Hearns was lucky to escape with his hide.

After that wild fourth round with Hearns on the brink of defeat, Thomas rallied valiantly during the last four rounds to save his career. Had not the erstwhile Hit Man fashioned a questioned 12-round split decision, somebody would have stepped up to sing "The Party's Over." And it might have been Hearns since he earlier acknowledged "there's no more tomorrow for me from here on in. It's now."

For the sake of trivia (and if anybody cares), Hearns actually won a piece of a fifth "world" title because the Top Rank promotion was sanctioned by the newly formed World Boxing Organization, a 22-country alignment which bolted from the WBA last October during its annual meeting in Venezuela.

Hearns was honest in the post-mortems as he peered through a right-eye threatening to close.

"This is the hardest belt I ever had to fight for. I really had to get down and fight," Hearns said with a wan smile. "Kinchen was definitely there. I'd ask him, what's keeping him up and he'd answer, 'Just a little bit more, champ.' I had to go back to 1977 and start boxing. That was the key when I decided to start moving. It got hot in there, so I had to get in and get out. After the first few rounds, I knew I wouldn't knock him out. James gave me a helluva fight."

That's almost an understatement, considering Kinchen, 166, eight months older than Hearns, 165½, has been unpredictable the last two years, although he came up to this test with seven straight victories. One judge, Larry Rozadilla of Los Angeles, had Kinchen winning, 115-114. It wasn't enough as Las Vegas judges Bill Graham and Cindi Barton scored it 115-112 and 114-112, respectively. *The Ring*'s card was 115-112, Hearns.

Hearns' best break of the night came from referee Mills Lane of Reno in that explosive fourth round. Kinchen smashed Hearns into the ropes with a right to the jaw. He added another as the 6′1″ challenger tipped over onto his right side. Hearns' eyes were glazed as he rose on disconnected legs. Kinchen shook Hearns again with a combination and Thomas reeled back into the ropes. But he grabbed the NABF champion along the way with 5′6, 145-pound Lane sandwiched in between. Hearns' 78-inch reach was like an octopus and he held both referee and rival in a "death grip."

"Sure, I was hurt, but I had learned how to hold on years ago, and this time it was necessary. Mills Lane would have had to be Hercules to have broken me any time soon. I held this man like he was my woman," the weary Hearns admitted. "I held James and the referee. I held them both because it was like I had eight arms."

Kinchen felt the fight should have been stopped. Many ringsiders agreed,

Hearns (left) beats Kinchen to the punch with a left hook to the side of the face. Both showed the ability to fight back after fielding solid blows.

by Jack Welsh

HINES UPSETS HILTON

Philly Upstart Comes Off The Floor To Win IBF Junior Middleweight Belt

Robert Hines (right) punishes Matthew Hilton with a smashing right to the head. Hines survived a rocky start to upset Hilton for the IBF junior middleweight title on the Hearns-Kinchen undercard.

LAS VEGAS — PHILADELPHIA'S Robert Hines not only became the new International Boxing Federation junior middleweight champion, he struck a loud chord for one of boxing's most exciting comebacks of the year.

Hines, 26, who was brought to the fore in the City of Brotherly Love by promoter J. Russell Peltz, admitted he was hurt when Matthew Hilton's vicious combinations dropped the challenger in the second and third rounds before Hines turned it all around in what many ringsiders felt was the best action in Top Rank's title triple header at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Hines, who overcame a drug problem in 1986, took charge for keeps in the sixth round, practically pitching a shutout from then on to hand Hilton his first defeat as a pro, stripping away his 154-pound championship on a unanimous 12-round decision in the process.

Taking nothing away from Hines' dramatic victory, it must be noted that Hilton had to lose five pounds the day before his second title defense. However, if there was a problem that may have hastened the good-looking Montrealer's fall from grace, it was later disclosed Hilton had injured his ribs in training 14 days before the fight.

"Two weeks ago, he bruised the cartilage in his ribs sparring. There was no problem making the weight. I wish people would get that out of their minds," said Dave Hilton, Sr, father and manager of the deposed champion. "I wanted to call it off, but Matthew wouldn't do it. He was hurt and he couldn't get his punches off. He did the best he could, but we have a lot of respect for Robert Hines."

Hines, who raised his ledger to 24-1-1 with 16KOs, was hurt early in the second round with the champion's pressing attack to the body, punctuated by arcing left and right hooks. Hines tried desperately to hold on before Matthew finally hammered him to the canvas. Hines had no problem beating referee Carlos Padilla's count to "eight" and was counterpunching at the bell.

Neither Hines nor the public realized Hilton was pained as he tried to end it in the third. Hines went down again from triple left and right hooks to the body and jaw. The Philly spoiler was up quickly, but Matthew had no chance for the clincher as the bell sounded.

Hilton, whose record dips to 29-1 with 23 KOs, had faced only one southpaw previously and it showed as Hines bounced right jabs off the fading champion's curly head while setting up punishing combinations to the head and body.

Hilton, dead game, was lucky to finish on his feet as Hines, himself lumpy around the eyes, moved the defender freely around the ring with stinging salvos. Hilton was helpless once he started backing up. His best defense has always been pulverizing offense.

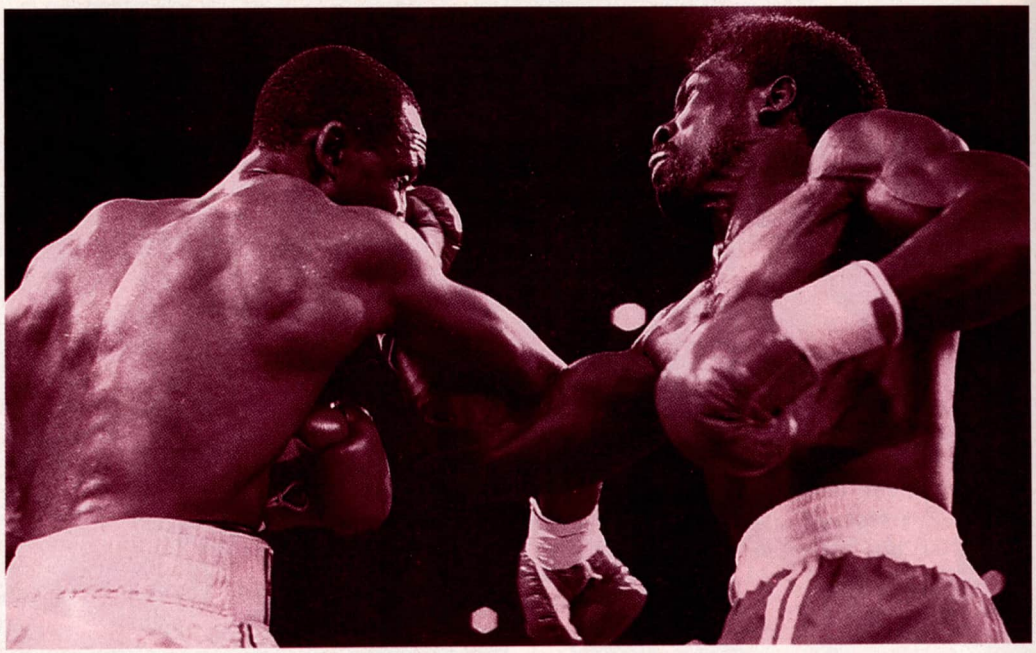
Hilton, who survived the distance only on guts alone, made no alibis: "My plan was to get in there and get Hines out early. But I wasn't myself. I wasn't properly prepared. I couldn't throw a left because of the rib. It hurt me worse than it hurt him. I'll take a couple of weeks off and then go back to the gym. I wasn't ready for this fight. But Robert Hines was the champ tonight."

There was no debate about the winner, despite judges Patricia Jarman and Tom Kaczmarek casting narrow ballots of 112-111 and 114-111. The more realistic tab was Bernie Cormier voting 116-110 for the new champion.

Hines pulled no verbal punches after the bout.

"Sure, I was hurt, but it was my stamina that pulled me through. I give credit to Matthew Hilton for his durability, but I know my trainer Al Pennell had me in great condition because we worked so hard in Philadelphia. I'd like to fight Donald Curry (World Boxing Council 154-pound champion). That would really be a big, big fight for me."

Hines may fight Curry eventually, but Peltz is currently leaning towards a match with Darrin Van Horn on NBC-TV. However, before any future bouts can be scheduled, Hines will have to deal with another problem. His post-fight drug test proved positive for lidocain, a painkiller he used to combat the discomfort of chronic arm and hand injuries. Hines will probably be fined by the Nevada commission, but it is doubtful the IBF will take his title. □



Hearns and Kinchen (right) get tangled up during one of their hectic exchanges. Both absorbed plenty of punishment, but kept punching until the final bell in one of the year's best action fights.

if nothing more than for Hearns' flagrant infractions, which did cost Thomas a point deducted in the fourth round.

"I felt I won the fight, but I'm not crying over spilled milk. I thank Thomas for the chance to be in the ring with him. I feel I fought a great fight. We'll go again," said the recycled pride of Southern California.

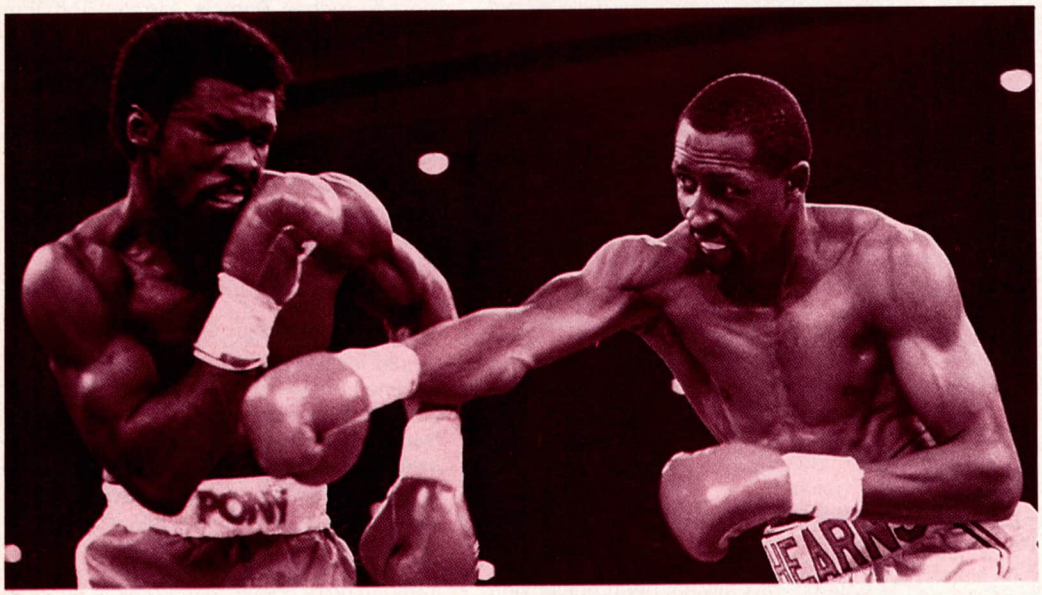
Kinchen also shook Hearns in the sixth round with two rights and led on all scorecards after eight rounds. Hearns apparently pulled it out by boxing smartly, down the stretch, snapping double jabs and crossing with the right. Though Thomas punched his gutty adversary on the button in the twilight, James was never shaken — unless it was by the official verdict.

Leonard was later to say he watched Hearns-Kinchen on television and "doesn't believe Hearns is a shot fighter," an opinion circulated by some fight people even before the Barkley fight.

"Hearns' problem has always been he's thinking about me instead of his opponent. It's been that way since '81. He was thinking more about me before he fought Hagler, he was thinking about me before the Barkley fight and he was thinking about me a lot before he met Kinchen," Leonard advised.

"Getting ready for Lalonde, I was thinking only about Lalonde. I made that mistake once when I was fighting Kevin Howard, but I was thinking about Hagler. That's when I got knocked down for the first time ever. I also retired after that fight."

The real snag in getting Leonard and Hearns back in the ring together appears to be with their promoters. Mike Trainer is Leonard's man and Hearns has had a long standing commitment with Bob Arum. Right now, it's impossible to invite Trainer and Arum to the same party. Of course, if somebody mentions money in mega figures, it's amazing how quickly hospitality flourishes — even in boxing. □



Thomas Hearns connected frequently with his murderous right hand, but James "The Heat" Kinchen stood up under everything Hearns could muster.

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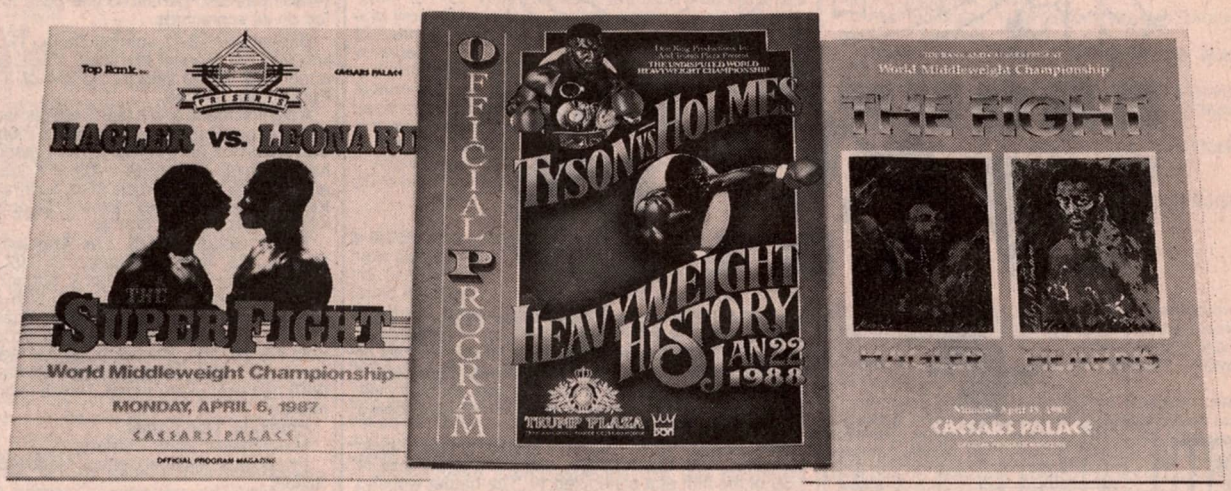

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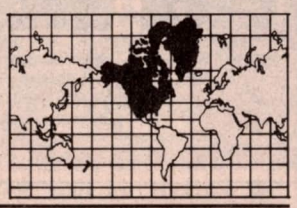


NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

▶**TUCSON**—Former world bantamweight champion **Gaby Canizales** remained active, but had a tough haul in securing a split 10-round decision over Mexico's Alex Valenzuela.

Former WBC light heavyweight titleholder **Dennis Andries** also appeared, stopping Paul Madison 28 seconds into the fourth round of a scheduled 10.

A possible future light heavyweight champion, **Michael Moorer** continued his impressive displays flattening Carl Williams in 75 seconds.
(10-17-88)

CALIFORNIA

▶**SAN DIEGO**—El Cortez Hotel—**Tony Deluca**, 109, San Diego, repeated a previous unanimous 10-round points win over Abraham Garcia, 110¾, Tijuana. Deluca (14-1-3) was clearly superior, forcing Garcia (13-11) on the defensive. Scoring: Hal Rickards 98-93; Danny Millsap 98-92; Tony Guitron 98-92. Raul Caiz, referee.

Randy Leaks, 187, Campo, blew out Dan Ramsey, 216, Tucson, in the first of a scheduled eight. Leaks (8-0) floored Ramsey (9-7) three times. Guitron, referee.

Terry Verners, 173½, Fresno, and James Williams, 175, San Diego, drew, six. The corner of Verners (4-4-2) was unhappy with the decision. Williams (5-18-1) looked slow at light heavyweight. Scoring: Rickards 59-55 Verners; Caiz, Millsap 57-57. Guitron, referee.

Unbeaten (6-0-1) local hero Todd McPhee, 175, San Diego, chalked up another victory. Unknown Mario Acuna, 177, Tucson, was floored by a right and counted out by referee Millsap in 1:10 of the third of a scheduled six.

Unbeaten (3-0) Johnny Almaguer, 134, Campo, continued to impress, bombing out winless (0-3) Jose Luis Sanchez, 138½, Tucson, in 2:58 of the first of a scheduled four. Millsap, referee.

Promoter: Bob DePhilippis.
Matchmaker: Guillermo Mayen.
Physicians: Michael Lundeen & Vaughn Nixon.
Timekeeper: Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Ernie Swanks.
(9-22-88)

▶**LANCASTER**—Fairgrounds—Willie Wilson, 161¾, Campo, hammered former Mexican middleweight champion Abel Cordova, 159¼, El Monte, in 2:40 of the second of a scheduled 10. Referee Bert Gilliam rescued Cordova (25-19-2) after he was doubled over by a wicked right to the body. Wilson (14-4-2) also floored Cordova late in the first.

Abe Gomez, 127¾, Pacoima, kayoed veteran Kelvin Lampkins, 128, Los Angeles, with a left to the liver in 1:55 of the fifth of a scheduled 10. The harder working Gomez (11-2) was ahead on points. Lampkins (16-20-2) was counted out by referee Kenny Davis.

Armando Baeza, 133, Norwalk, was a clear but majority winner over Gustavo Lopez, 133, Los Angeles, over 10. Although Lopez (10-17-5) marched forward, Baeza (11-3-1) always had an edge. Curious scoring with Dick Young and Gilliam both 100-90, while Davis saw it 95-95. Robert Byrd, referee.

Sergio Lopez, 146¾, Glendale, unanimously outpointed Roberto Garcia, 145¾, Los Angeles, five. Down and saved by the bell in the first, Lopez (3-0) rallied to outpunch Garcia (6-14-3) over the next four rounds. Eddie Rodriguez, referee.

Promoter: Jens Neelsen (Essex Sports).
Matchmaker: Johnnie Flores.
Physician: Bernhart Schwartz.
Timekeeper: John Liechty.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
(9-24-88)

▶**RESEDA**—The Country Club—**Frankie Duarte**, 120, Venice, had to rally to win a unanimous decision over Miguel Juarez, 120, Los Angeles. The slow-starting Duarte (44-7-1) was behind or even on all scorecards after six rounds. But the 34-year-old Duarte floored Juarez (18-13-3) with a left in the eighth and the knockdown cost Juarez the fight. Scoring: Pat Connolly 95-94; Dick Young 96-93; Lou Filippo 96-93. Chuck Hassett, referee. *The Ring* favored Juarez 95-94.

Duarte's top 10 rated stablemate **Jesus Poll**, 122, North Hollywood, unanimously outpointed Allan Makitoki, 122¾, Stockton, 10. Poll (17-0-2) was the sharper puncher and gradually pulled away from Makitoki (30-15-1) after four competitive rounds. Scoring: Filipo 99-91; Connolly 100-90; Young 98-92. Rudy Jordan, referee.

Floyd Weaver, 154, Diamond Bar, stunned Gilbert Martinez, 151½, Sacramento, in 1:35 of the second of a scheduled six. Weaver (5-1-2) exploded with a four-punch combination which sent Martinez (8-3) face first to the canvas. Connolly, referee.

Twin brother Troy Weaver, 168, Diamond Bar, also impressed with a blast out of Fernando Rosales, 165, Los Angeles, in 1:00 of the second of a scheduled four. Filippo, referee.

Lionel Washington, 245, Bakersfield, overpowered Matt Belcher, 198, Everett, in 2:09 of the first of a scheduled four. Washington (9-3) floored Belcher (3-1) twice. Connolly, referee.

Unbeaten (2-0) Ten Goose prospect Gabriel Ruelas, 121, Arleta, beat up on Tranqulino Martinez, 119, Sanger, four, not losing a round. Filippo, referee.

Promoter: Daniel Goossen.
Matchmakers: Larry Goossen & Obdulio Munoz.
Physicians: Robert Karns & Bernhart Schwartz.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
(9-27-88)

▶**IRVINE**—Marriott Hotel—Mark Wills, 215, Los Angeles, kayoed Mike White, 275, Long Beach, in 1:37 of the 10th and final round, a loss which should finish seven-footer White as a viable heavyweight contender. Wills (10-8-1) lost three of the four opening rounds as he surprisingly failed to press the bigger man. Wills moved inside from the fifth where blows to the body slowed White. A left sent the former California champion down in the 10th and after another hook landed flush on the chin of White (22-9-1) referee Chuck Hassett stepped in. Despite losing two points for low blows (White was also penalized one point for holding) Wills led on all scorecards.

Unbeaten (5-0-1) Johnny Tapia, 113, Albuquerque, knocked out Manuel Martinez, 115, Los Angeles, with a left hook to the liver in the first of a scheduled six. Pat Russell, referee.

A big first round and a fast finish carried David Kilgour, 178, Canoga Park, to a disputed six-round split decision over hard-luck Terry Verners, 178, Fresno. A draw would have been fair. Verners (4-5-2) was a one-handed fighter after injuring his right in the third. Scoring: Russell 58-57 Kilgour; Hassett 58-56 Verners; Danny Millsap 58-57 Kilgour. Fritz Werner, referee.

Rocky Goodard, 176, Los Angeles, kayoed Allan Mainus, 175, San Luis Obispo, in 2:07 of the first of a scheduled four with a left hook, but not before Mainus (1-1) staggered Goddard (2-0-1) with a right. Mainus was also down early in the round. Russell, referee.

Carlos Cruz, 164, San Jose, stopped tough but limited Kola Havea, 164, Riverside, on his feet in 1:19 of the fourth and final round. Chilean amateur champ Cruz (2-0) had won every round. Havea falls to 2-4. Werner, referee.

Promoter: Don Fraser.
Matchmaker: John Cabrera.
Physicians: Michael Deluca, Mario Ficarola & Michael Sukoff.
Timekeeper: Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Danny Valdvia.
(9-29-88)

▶**HOLLYWOOD**—The Palladium—Russell Mitchell, 149, Riverside, unanimously outpointed Ruben Villaman, 149, Tijuana, in a 10 devoid of highlights. Former California welterweight champion Mitchell has a deceptive 12-9-3 record. John Thomas, referee.

Erick Madrid, 136½, Sylmar, and Jerry Rosenberg, 137, Hollywood, fought to a technical draw after three rounds of a scheduled six. Madrid (13-2-2) was ahead on all cards when Rosenberg (7-7-1) was cut by a head butt. Dr. James Jen-Kin, referee.

In the fight of the night, Tony Espinosa, 179, Oxnard, unanimously outpointed Sergio Guerrero, 175, Van Nuys, four. The debuting boxers were both bloodied and battered. Vince Delgado, referee.

Martine Perez, 117, Chino, unanimously outscored Tranquilino Martinez, 118½, Sanger, four. Lou Moret, referee.

Juan Ramirez, 128, Los Angeles, was a four-round unanimous points winner over Albert Mora, 125¼. Delgado, referee.

Javier Macias, 124½, North Hollywood, kayoed Hernan Cortez, 130, Fresno, in the first of a scheduled six. Moret, referee.

Promoter: Keith Jones.
Matchmaker: Harry Kabakoff.
Physician: Robert Karns.
Timekeeper: Aaron Koslow.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
(9-29-88)

▶**REDONDO BEACH**—Aviation Gym—**Joe Ruelas**, 130, Santa Ana, kayoed Andre Smith, 127½, Los Angeles, in the sixth of a scheduled 10. Ruelas (22-4) was always in control as Smith (11-2) foolishly attempted to swap leather. Smith was floored twice. Pat Connolly, referee.

Rodney Stockton, 190, Los Angeles, clearly outscored George O'Mara, 230, Van Nuys, eight, improving his record to 4-6. O'Mara fell to 11-6-1. Dr. James Jen-Kin, referee.

Phil Gilberti, 201, Whittier, predictably stopped hapless Steve Cortez, 250, Ashland, in the first of a scheduled four. Gilberti (8-1) knocked Cortez (0-8) through the ropes with a body shot. Kenny Davis, referee.

Hard-working Kid Melo, 119, Culiacan, outopinted consistent loser Juvenal Molina, 122, Los Angeles, over six. Davis, referee.

Jose Dominguez, 141, Los Angeles, knocked out Juan Vasquez, 140, in the first of a scheduled four. Both were making their pro debut. Bert Gilliam, referee.

Promoter: John Ellis.
Matchmaker: Obdulio Munoz.
Physician: Michael Deluca.
Timekeeper: John Liechty.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.
(9-30-88)

▶**INGLEWOOD**—The Forum—Exciting slugger **Engels Pedroza**, 140, Long Beach, took only 2:01 to knock out **Othal Dixon**, 140, Houston, in a scheduled 10-round Forum super lightweight elimination bout. Pedroza (22-1, 22 KOs, 14 in the first round) went down early (it was ruled a slip) after a furious exchange of punches. Incensed, Pedroza tore into Dixon (21-4) with a spectacular barrage of punches which put the Texas fighter down and through the ropes. Seconds later another combination separated Dixon from his senses and referee Lou Moret stopped the fight.

Sammy Fuentes, 140, Loisa, Puerto Rico, halted **Vincent Releford**, 139, Fort Worth, in 1:16 of the second of another tournament first-round bout. Fuentes (18-6) hurt Releford (14-2-1) several times in the first, and when a left sent Releford reeling in the second, referee Vince Delgado stepped in.

Carlton Brooks, 147, Hawthorne, rallied to win an upset majority decision over Ernest Curtis, 145, Los Angeles, in an action-packed eight-round war. Brooks (9-3-2) absorbed the best Curtis (14-5-1) could offer before sweeping the final four rounds with his harder punching. Scoring: Dr. James Jen-Kin 76-76; Delgado 77-75; Moret 77-76. John Thomas, referee.

Also winning on determination was L.J. Canty, 150, San Diego, who pressured Antonio Guerra, 152, Bell, to one-sided unanimous defeat over six. The persistence and relentless punch rate of Canty (7-6-1) kept Guerra (7-4) on the defensive. Scoring: Delgado 59-55; Gwen Adair 60-54; Thomas 60-55. Jen-Kin, referee.

Robert Carson, 149, Los Angeles, unanimously outpointed (60-55, 59-55, 58-56) previously unbeaten (3-1) Romeal Anderson, 147, Bakersfield, six. Carson (4-0-2) was bothered by a bloody nose, but edged most of the rounds. Raul Caiz, referee.

Ben Lopez, 135¾, Upland, kayoed Jose Dominguez, 135, Los Angeles, referee Caiz counting out Dominguez in 49 seconds of the first of a scheduled five. Lopez (7-4) discouraged Dominguez (1-1) with a left hook.

Lupe Lopez, 130, Commerce City, Co., stopped Ruben Maclis, 130, Sanger, after three rounds of a scheduled four. Maclis (3-7-2) was sensibly retired in his corner because of a deep laceration over his right eye. A head clash opened the cut, but Lopez (2-0) was clearly ahead on points. Adair, referee.

Promoter: Jerry Buss.
Matchmaker: Antonio Curtis.
Physicians: Robert Karns & Jim McMahon.
Timekeepers: Ernie Snow & Aaron Koslow.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
(10-5-88)

▶**BAKERSFIELD**—Casa Royal Hotel—**Jeff Franklin**, 131, Las Vegas, was too strong for Miguel Medina, 131, San Jose, who retired in his corner after six rounds of a scheduled 10. Franklin (21-2-3) won every round. Gwen Adair, referee.

Marcellus Allen, 175, Portland, unanimously (99-91, 99-89, 97-91) outpointed Juan "Idi Amin" Hernandez, 175, Los Angeles, 10. The former Mexican champ lost two points for low blows. Kenny Davis, referee.

Jorge Rodriguez, 126, Bell, won a six-round majority decision over Victor Flores, 126, Lennox. Scored 58-56, 58-56, 57-57 for the more seasoned Rodriguez (9-10-2). Flores (3-5-1) has been on the short end of several close decisions. Adair, referee.

Roberto Garcia, 150, Bell Gardens, kayoed Ron Wiswell, 150, Bakersfield, in the third. Wiswell (4-7-1) was caught by a short right and failed to beat the count of referee Davis. Garcia's 7-14-3 record includes a loss to superstar **Julio Cesar Chavez** in Mexico.

Promoter/Matchmaker: Thad Spencer.
Timekeeper: Aaron Koslow.
(10-15-88)

DEAN LOHUIS

▶**SAN FRANCISCO**—The Palace of Fine Arts—It sounded like something out of Divorce Court—Martinez vs. Martinez.

It wasn't alimony at stake, but the NABF bantamweight crown. And after 12 rounds, Gerardo Martinez claimed the title with a decisive decision over more experienced Alberto Martinez.

Gerardo, 118, San Jose, came in 18-0, 10 by knockout, and while his record seemed impressive his opponent from Guadalajara, Mexico, was 38-7 and a former two-time Mexican champion. But Gerardo outclassed and outsmarted the older Alberto, knocking him down in the second, third and sixth rounds, once with a combination, twice with overhand rights.

The scorecards read 117-107, 118-105 and 115-107. Alberto lost two points for hitting low, but he was losing points at a breakneck pace and was willing to try just about anything.

On the undercard, "Irish" Pat Lawlor upped his record to 8-0 with a onesided decision over rugged Modesto Guzman after six. Lawlor, 151, is very popular here and though cut over both eyes he handed Guzman, 152, San Jose, his first defeat after seven wins.

In an eight-rounder Mario L'Esperance, 142, Vallejo, stopped Luis Mora, 142, Tijuana, in the second. Ringside physician Smith Ketchum inspected a cut along the right eyebrow of Mora and decided he was unable to continue. L'Esperance, 19-1, 13 by KO, and Lora, 16-7-2, 12 by knockout, are both hard punchers and went face-to-face, trading hooks for six minutes. L'Esperance had the edge and seemed to be getting stronger.

In the opener, Exum Speight, 185, Concord, stopped last-minute sub Edgar Guavara, 184, Daly City, in the second of a scheduled four. Exum is 3-2-1, while Guavara was making his pro bow.

Promoter: Jimmy Sosa.
Attendance: 1,200. Gross: $27,560.
(11-4-88)

▶**MODESTO**—Modesto Auditorium—In what some have called one of the best fights of the year in California, Allen Makitoki of Stockton scored a stunning eighth-round knockout over Lupe Gutierrez of Modesto in the scheduled 10-round main event.

Gutierrez, 124¼, dominated most of the rounds, outpunching and outslugging Makitoki, 125, in numerous fierce exchanges. The scorecards ended up in the wastebasket when Makitoki uncorked a sweeping left hook that dropped Gutierrez on his back. Barely able to beat the count, Gutierrez soon was pinned against the ropes and taking punishment. Referee Jack Campbell wisely halted the bout at 2:39.

In the opener, Juan Castenada, 118, San Francisco, stopped Tranquellino Martinez, 117, Fresno, in the third of a scheduled four.

Miguel Mertado, 135½, San Jose, and Frank Choi, also 135½, Modesto, worked hard for a win, but wound up with a four-round draw.

The best undercard bout featured Carlos Cruz, 159½, San Jose, stopping Virgil Green, 156½, Vallejo, in the third of a scheduled four. Cruz is 4-0, all by knockout.

Promoter: Joe Gagliardi.
Matchmaker: Ernie Sanchez.
Attendance: 831. Gross: $16,234.
(11-12-88)

CHRISTOPHER COATS

CONNECTICUT

▶**HARTFORD**—Civic Center Assembly Hall—Fans got their first long look at highly touted Olympic Trials-Golden Gloves regional middleweight champ Gentleman Jim Scully as a pro when he stopped John Wilkinson in four.

The 160-pound Windsor walloper easily outpointed his 157-pound one-time Olympic roommate of New Britain through three rounds before turning on the heat.

Wilkinson, 11 years older at 32, had spent his entire career as an amateur before turning pro in this bout. Referee Matt Mullaney rescued him at 2:42 as the ambidextrous Scully pounded freely to boost his all-knockout record to 3-0.

"He was trying to butt me," said Scully, explaining why he had switched to southpaw in the very first round. He continued to switch throughout the bout, scoring his best shots from the left-handed stance.

Troy Wortham, 163, Hartford, raised his record to 28-1 as he overcame a slow start to outpoint Mario Davis, 158, Buffalo, in a co-featured six. The former ESPN welterweight champ ballooned to middleweight during a two-year layoff that saw him get a marketing degree from the University of Hartford.

"I'm sluggish at my present weight and will be more comfortable as a welter," said Wortham, whose only loss was to **Mark Breland** almost three years ago. It took Wortham half the duel to get his stride, though he won every round. From the fourth on, clusters of shots to head and midsection earned him big margins.

On the second of a series of Irish Knights boxing programs, Pat Ireland and Irish John Fortin joined Scully as victors. They both came out of the green corner, which has produced the winner in every bout on each show.

Ireland, 144, Springfield, Massachusetts, stopped Ron "Pit Bull" Perkins, 146, Springfield, at 2:56 of the third as Ireland pummeled his beleaguered foe freely.

Fortin, 141, Springfield, halted Jake "The Snake" Riley, 141, Troy, New York, in the second after the latter upchucked part of his stomach contents onto the canvas and into a bucket.

A booming left hook to the jaw got Nate Woods, 148, Hartford, a knockout over Jose Pinero, 154, Springfield, in 39 seconds. Dr. Steven M. Stein ministered to the stricken boxer who was unconscious for many seconds.

John Bactor, 137, Bloomfield, outpointed Alberto Alicea, 135, Troy, in four.

Ray Bright, 139½, New Haven, outscored Frank Harris, 143, Norwalk, in six.

Angel Gonzales, 115, Hartford, stopped Derrick Sheppard, 111, Norwalk, in two.

Officials: Matt Mullaney, Sam Maltempo, Duke Lawson & Bob Muravnick.
Timekeepers: Howard Morton & Sarino Giantono.
Physicians: Steven M. Stein & James O'Brien.
Announcer: Brad Davis.
Promoters: Irish Knights Boxing & Chris Buckley.
Attendance: 1,243. Gross: $22,575.
(10-28-88)

JOSEPH CASSANO

IOWA

▶**CARTER LAKE**—Carter Lake Ballroom—Nebraska's finest, **Dan Murphy**, headlined the main event here across the river from Omaha. Murphy was pitted against the cagey veteran **Wilbert "Vampire" Johnson**.

Johnson, 197, Middletown, Ohio, was a bit heavy but proved a stubborn foe against the aggressive Murphy, who was striving for a kayo. Dan, 195, Omaha, was often frustrated by Vampire's continually hanging all over him. At one point, an angry Murphy almost shoved Johnson right out of the ring. However, Dan's solid uppercuts had scored well enough for him to capture the unanimous decision after eight rounds, 80-72, 80-73 and 79-74.

"Dan went to school tonight," said promoter Fred Berns.

Several no-shows caused problems on the undercard, resulting in many last-minute subs. In the opener, Frank "Gator" Lux fought Tim Tomashek in a six-round exhibition in which the two heavyweights slugged it out as if a title was on the line.

Kenny Schaefer, fast-rising young light heavy from Omaha, put his skills to good use in scoring a second-round TKO over the game, but outgunned Adrian Crawford, Oklahoma City, in a scheduled six. The popular Schaefer is considered a top prospect.

Crowd favorite Dick "Raging Bull" Ryan, 231, Omaha, polished off Dan Robenelli, 220, Oklahoma, for a second-round KO in a scheduled six.

Always impressive Felix "The Cat" Dubray, 147, Omaha, outpointed tough Rocky Meyers, 148, Oklahoma City, via unanimous decision, six-rounder. Meyers was a late sub, but won the crowd with his game effort.

Attendance: 900 (est.).
Referees: Ron Stander & Ben Belmont.
Judges: Mike McGinnis, Ron Stander & Ben Belmont.
Physician: Bill Weeks.
Announcer: Fred Berns.
Promoters: F&F Berns.
Matchmaker: Mouse Strauss.
(10-26-88)

BOB RUIZ

LOUISIANA

▶**NEW ORLEANS**—UNO Lakefront Arena—Lightweight **John "Super D" Duplessis** of New Orleans returned to the winner's circle, pounding out a TKO over Felix Dubray of Omaha, Neb., at 1:27 of the seventh round; scheduled 10.

The fight was Duplessis' first outing since dropping a close decision to Louie Lomeli in June. His record improves to 27-1, while DuBray falls to 16-3.

Local favorite David Collet, 154, Metarie, La., stopped Andrew Brooks, 156, Rosenburg, Tex., at 1:44 of the third round of a scheduled six-rounder. Collet moves to 5-0, four KOs.

Jamie Fernandez, 162, New Orleans, stopped Vincent Bledsoe, Rosenburg, Tex., in the second.

Tony Franklin, 150, New Orleans, took a six-round split decision over John "Death Wish" Gardner, 150, Terrytown, La. Gardner had entered the bout at 3-0, all kayoes.
(9-22-88)

STEPHEN DeFELICE

NEVADA

▶**STATELINE**—Caesars Tahoe—USBA champion **Carl "The Truth" Williams**, 221½, Atlantic City, successfully defended his title and his position as *The Ring*'s No. 2 contender with a three-round TKO of Norfolk, Virginia's Mike Rouse, 219.

Williams, 22-2 with 17 KOs, was all over Rouse from the opening bell, flooring the loser midway through the first round. The inexperienced southpaw, who went into the match 11-0-1 with five KOs, made it into the third but was dropped for the count by a right uppercut.

Calvin Grove, 128, Coatesville, Pa., made his first start since losing his IBF title to Jorge Paez, stopping Orlando, Florida's Jessee Williams, 129½, in the sixth.

Williams, 12-6 with six KOs, was down twice in the third and twice more in the sixth, being counted out on the final knockdown. Grove, 34-1 with 14 KOs, boxed smartly from outside, mixing his punches to body and head.

In a four-rounder, Bomani Parker, Richmond, California, 176, had to survive some rocky moments to win a unanimous decision over Adrian Riggs, 170½, Las Vegas, Riggs dropped to 1-5.

Promoter: HBA.

Announcer: Les Kynett.

Judges: Patricia Jarman, Lillian Runningwolf, John McSweeney & Doug Tucker.

Referees: Jay Nady & Norm Budden.

Physician: John Whitman.

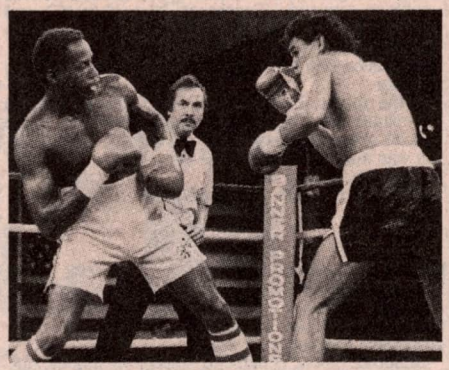
Timekeepers: Jim Carpenter & Johnny Rogers.
(11-10-88)

▶**LAS VEGAS**—Bally's—**Engels Pedroza** finally got in some rounds that trainer Jimmy Montoya was desiring in recent months, but the report card after 10 rounds with slick Eric Martin was no better than a B-plus.

The 22-year-old Pedroza got home with a unanimous decision at Bally's, but the action in the 10-round main event was much closer than ringside judges tabbed it.

Pedroza, looking ahead to the $100,000 tournament at the Inglewood, California Forum, moved to 23-1, but did not record his 23rd knockout against the veteran from San Francisco. The 30-year-old Martin slipped to 21-12-2, seven KOs, but his record of never having been stopped as a pro remained intact.

However, Pedroza, 144, ruined Martin's boast of never having been down twice in any previous bout since turning pro in Oct., 1981. The first decking came early in the third round when Martin, 145, took a long right to the jaw. In what has become a career trademark, Pedroza became over excited, lunging with his punches to apply the finisher. As advertised, Martin was too smooth, counter-punching on the run to survive the round.



Eric Martin (left) was slipping, sliding and counterpunching to hold knockout artist Engels Pedroza to a unanimous 10-round decision at Bally's in Las Vegas.

Martin, who had met far more experienced competition, was at his best at long range, keeping Pedroza off balance with an accurate if not potent jab. Martin was back on the canvas in the 10th round when Pedroza tagged him with a good left hook. The Northern Californian dropped like a shot near his own corner but had no problem beating referee Carlos Padilla's count at eight.

Pedroza's advantage on the knockdowns was shortened when the referee penalized him twice in the seventh round — once for hitting on the break and again when Martin took a left uppercut near center on the protective cup.

For the judges, it was the type of matchup where they had to decide whether six or seven lighter blows by Martin outweighed the once-or-twice bomb delivered by Pedroza. Had Martin possessed the power of his rising rival, it might have been an even longer night for Pedroza.

Neither fighter was cut, but both had lumps under their left eyes. It was the first time the native of Caracas, Venezuela, now out of Long Beach, California, handled the full 10 rounds and he was delighted to have turned the corner.

Jerry Roth voted 96-90, while Dalby Shirley viewed it 96-89 and Art Lurie wrote 96-91.

There were 1,000 in attendance in Bally's ballroom as Banner Promotions of Philadelphia returned for their third show on the Strip. The assembly included **Chuck Norris**, actor/karate expert/boxing buff, who went to Pedroza's dressing room to congratulate him.

"Martin was slipping and dodging my punches. He was very strong and making me miss, but I know I hurt him several times. I trained too hard for this fight, but I'm glad I could go 10 rounds without question."

Montoya wasn't making any alibi when he declared "Engels trained too hard and it showed in the fight.

"The last three days coming up to this fight, I wanted Perdoza to do nothing. But I was out of town and he didn't listen to me in his workouts. He'll loosen up and then get ready for his next start. Engels was locking himself like Hector Camacho used to do when I had him, but he came out of it."

Martin, who has fought three world champions, had no alibis. Nor should he have had, considering he took this fight on a week's notice and more than lived up to his reputation as a deft counter-puncher.

In an eight-round welterweight semi-final, **Maurice Blocker**, 148, Washington, D.C., had Ruben Villaman, 148½, down twice in the second round and once in the third before scoring a TKO victory at 2:51 of the latter round. Blocker, rated No. 4 by *The Ring*, improved his log to 26-1, 15 KOs; Villaman fell to 26-10, 23 KOs.

Tony Baltazar, 147, LaPuente, Calif., shook off the rust of 33 months of inactivity and finally wore down durable Miguel Dominguez, 148, Sonora, Mexico, for a TKO win at 2:57 of the seventh round. Baltazar is now 28-2-1, 22 KOs.

Glenn Thomas, 155, Wilmington, Delaware, won a majority eight-round decision over Jerry Stephens, 154, Shreveport, Louisiana; Israel Cole, 165, Las Vegas, posted a unanimous decision over James Williams, 165, Tucson, Arizona; and Sean Malone, 138, Wallingford, Connecticut, TKO'd Sammy Salazar, 137, Nogales, Arizona, at 2:53 of the first round.
(10-22-88)

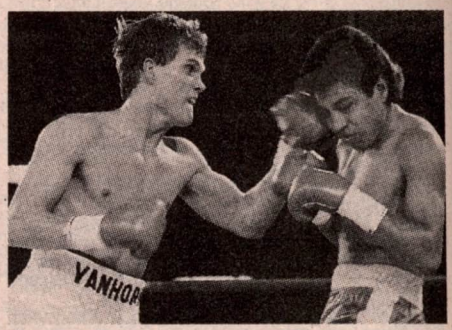


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Middleweight Darrin Van Horn (left) stayed unbeaten with a fourth-round TKO over Miguel Angel Hernandez in Las Vegas.

▶**LAS VEGAS**—Showboat—**Darrin Van Horn** temporarily left the higher education of a college campus for the higher education of boxing by making his Nevada debut with a TKO victory at the Showboat.

The 19-year-old communications major at the University of Kentucky methodically took his time in chopping down game but outgunned Miguel Angel Hernandez of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, at 2:22 of the fourth round in a scheduled 10-round main event.

Van Horn, an all-sports letterman at Morgan City, Louisiana, before enrolling at the Lexington campus, improved his ledger to 38-0, 24 KOs.

Matchmaker Mel Greb had two other opponents in mind for the handsome Van Horn's invasion of this gaming oasis before settling on Hernandez. Originally, Frank Davis of Reno was scheduled for the other corner, but was forced to withdraw when he was unable to make the 157-pound contract weight.

Dwain Lockman, a solid puncher of Tyler, Texas, was scheduled to fill the vacancy, but he blew the shot by missing flight connections to Vegas.

Hernandez came to town with a 13-4-1, 11 KOs reputation and Van Horn admits he was a little overconfident about the 11th-hour replacement.

"Every time I get into the ring, I learn something. Every time I take somebody lightly, I get stung. Sometimes I worry about how I look rather than how I fight," Van Horn said.

"When I realized Hernandez was tougher than I thought, I knew I'd have to settle down in order to take him out. I didn't want to burn myself out. Instead, I wanted to set up my right hand."

Wearing the Greek letters Sigma Chi on white satin trunks, Van Horn took command quickly with combinations to the head against an opponent standing straight up.

The collegian punches with accuracy and in volleys against a non-elusive target, but he didn't display the kind of power that might take an opponent out with one shot.

Referee Mills Lane halted the action at 2:22 of the fifth round when Van Horn trapped Hernandez in a neutral corner and delivered 10 unanswered shots to the head and body.

"I saw defeat in his eyes. I'll do whatever I have to do to win, even biting his ear off. I kept hitting Hernandez on the arms but the referee didn't stop it, so one time I had to hit Hernandez flush on the jaw and the referee finally stopped it," Van Horn explained.

In a 10-round semi-windup, **Rafael Pineda**, 139½, of Colombia, had an easy time taking out mismatched Bryan Brown, 139, Lexington, Kentucky, at 2:40 of the second round.

Pineda improved his ledger to 19-0 with his 18th win inside the distance. Brown fell to 13-4-1, 10 KOs after taking three vicious right uppercuts which drew blood and prompted his cornermen to throw in the towel.

The prelims included Tony Robinson, 147, Detroit, TKOing Humberto Lucero, 148, Albuquerque, New Mexico, at 2:52 of the fifth round for his fourth straight victory. Lucero dips to 7-4, six KOs.

Gerald McClellan, 162½, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, erased Dan Lowry, 169, Las Vegas, at 2:00 of the first round in action slated for six rounds. McClellan is now

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3-0 on kayoes, Lowry 1-2.

Jeff Mayweather, 131, Las Vegas, scored a unanimous four-round decision over Lupe Lopes, also 131, Commerce City, Colorado, for a 4-0-1 reading. Lopes is now 2-1.

(11-3-88)

JACK WELSH

NEW HAMPSHIRE

▶**SALEM**—Salem Boys Club—Most of New England's young boxing prospects got a chance to display their talents on this eight-bout program, and none of the favorites was upset by their journeyman opponents.

In the 10-round main event, Brockton, Mass. middleweight Steve Collins kept steady pressure on Hartford's Muhammad Shabbazz and forced the badly conditioned veteran to retire before Round Five. Collins, 162, the Irish middleweight champ, was preparing for a November match against **Sean Mannion** and Shabbazz figured to be a perfect preview. Shabbazz was pudgy at 163 lbs., but also a cagy defensive fighter who's made a career of making good boxers look awkward. Against Collins' bulldog offense, Shabbazz decided to bull right inside with him, tying both up. Collins was soon backing up and stepping to the side to gain punching room, and a left uppercut stunned Shabbazz late in the opening round. The second round was a triumph for Shabbazz' smothering style, which is to say it was a sloppy round excruciating to watch, with no volleys lasting beyond two punches.

Collins' left jabs and hooks began scoring with regularity in the third round, and if Shabbazz attempted any offense we must have blinked and missed it. The unrelenting pace of Collins' attack had Shabbazz fading fast, and his slick defense was springing leaks rapidly. Collins discovered a new tactic in the fourth round, swatting his foe with left hooks to the head followed by rights to the ample Shabbazz belly. Each body shot affected Shabbazz the way the iceberg affected the Titanic, and he barely lasted the round. With Shabbazz flopped on his stool gasping for air, his corner informed ref Ed Fitzgerald that he was "out of gas" and retiring from the fray.

"I'm not happy with my performance tonight, I was very sloppy," Collins said. "I was looking for the knockout too much. This was a good opponent for me, though, just like Sean Mannion." Collins boosts his record to 11-0 with his fifth knockout.

A semifinal slated for eight rounds featured Lewiston, Maine lightweight Joey Gamache in his New Hampshire debut. Springfield's Jose Soto, 139, went on the attack immediately, but Gamache, 134, bobbed and weaved his way away from danger. Midway through the frame, Gamache cornered Soto and fired a rapid flurry of blows, culminating with a textbook left hook to the temple that iced Soto at 1:55. Gamache goes to 12-0, with nine KOs, five in the first round.

Another eight-round semifinal also ended early. Lowell, Mass. heavyweight Don Halpin was thought to have retired after being stopped in four by **Mike Tyson** in 1985. This year, though, he has fought twice in New Hampshire since Mass. is enforcing a ban on fighters over 35. This time Halpin, 211, met Syracuse prospect Lou Vallar, 206, and came forward from the opening bell in his crab-like stance. One wild Halpin miss left the Lowell slugger on one foot, and Vallar executed a neat veronica and then tapped Halpin enough to score a flash knockdown. A bit later Vallar landed a slashing left uppercut that sent Halpin into the ropes and opened a vertical gash on the right eyebrow near the bridge of the nose. With blood pumping all over Halpin's face, ref Fitzgerald consulted ring physician Rene Barrette, who halted the match. Halpin's previous comeback battle ended the same way, and he is now something like 9-18. Valler improves to 19-4 (13 KOs).

A six-rounder saw Petronelli Brothers Gym product Drake Daseday, 177, Brockton, push his record to 5-1 with a first-round TKO over Springfield's Angel Colon, 164. The paunchy Colon wanted no part of Daseday's body attack and was down twice before the scrap ended at 1:25.

A quartet of four-rounders opened the show. Three-time New England Golden Gloves champ John Scully, who barely missed the Olympic team, scored his second easy pro win. Scully, 166, is the latest protege of Hartford attorney Mac Buckley. His foe was tall and lanky Steve Jefferson, 170, Springfield, but Scully deliberately worked Jefferson along the ropes and then unloaded on him. A precise combination ending with a short right cross dropped Jefferson for a nine-count, and ref Bob Rivard halted matters right there. Scully's second first-round kayo came at 1:05.

Another four matched Providence prospect Greg Townes, 175, with one of the region's most-traveled pugs. Lowell's Manny Freitas, 177, was stopped by **Marvin Hagler** in 1973 in what was the future champ's seventh pro bout. One of this show's officials swore he worked a Freitas fight in the late 1960s. Townes was much taller than Freitas, with a frightening reach advantage, and he quickly began walloping the old-timer. During one furious barrage, Freitas was stumbling downward when Townes applied the coup-de-grace to the back of his head, propelling Freitas face-first to the floor where he bounced sickeningly. Dr. Barrette tended to Freitas and after a lengthy delay ref Rivard penalized Townes for the errant blow and allowed the bout to resume. Freitas was still woozy, and inside the first minute of the restart Rivard had to step in with a standing-eight. Somehow Freitas survived until the bell, wobbling back to his corner, where a debate ensued. Barrette, Rivard and Freitas' corner were all arguing, it seemed, while Freitas claimed he was able to go on. N.H. Boxing Commission Chairman Bob Stevens entered the discussion and ordered the fight stopped, the smartest move anyone made in this whole sequence. Townes goes to 6-0 and hopefully Freitas hangs up the gloves for good.

Another four saw another ill-fated comeback, this time from Brockton's Fernando Fernandez, who was New England welterweight champ in 1980-81. At a flabby 167 lbs., Fernandez had one good round against debuting Eddie Vasquez, 170, Worcester. The eventual decision was a split verdict for Vasquez, with judge William James calling it 40-36 and Peter Burkush 39-36, while Jim Finnegan saw it 38-37 Fernandez. *The Ring* saw it 39-38 Vasquez.

An opening four saw Hartford's Peter Ferguson, 152, draw over four lively rounds with Providence's Steve Manfredo, 153.

Pugilistic celebrities in the crowd included former IBF lightweight champ **Vinny Pazienza** and his new mentor Master Seo, Mannion and **Robbie Sims**.

Promoters: Goodwin A.C. & Al Valenti.

Attendance: 318. Gross: $3,816.

Referees: Bob Rivard & Ed Fitzgerald.

Judges: William James, Peter Burkush & Jim Finnegan.

Timer: Bob LaChance.

Announcer: Nuno Cam.

(10-22-88)

JAY N. MILLER

NEW JERSEY

▶**NEWARK**—Quality Inn—The inner city weekend began as so many have: there was a mugging and a beating and both made the Saturday paper. Two former light heavyweight champions dared to tread the canvas jungle and both got burned for the effort. For one, it was a joke that finally backfired. For the other, it was sink or swim. And for the promoter, it was a disaster waiting to happen; Halloween came 10 days early, and it was tricks, not treats across the board.

The bloated **Eddie Mustafa Muhammad**, 198, now out of Woodbridge, NJ, had the spotlight 10, but failed to shine in suffering his first ever TKO loss at 1:43 of the third against former sparring partner **Arthel Lawhorn**, 196¾, Detroit. **Matthew Saad Muhammad**, a svelte 179, now out of Pleasantville, NJ, fared even worse in his scheduled 10 when he was abruptly tossed out at just 2:33 of the opening round by **Frankie Swindell**, 182, Nashville, TN., the current USBA light heavy champ.

Only an eight-rounder was offered as an appetizer at this "Banquet Of Champions"—only Breland and McGirt were in attendance as Eddie's Brooklyn buddy Tyson was a no show—ballroom affair. The sparse turnout may have been due to the rain, but I'm sure the $50.00 tickets—$100.00 with dinner — kept a number of potential customers away.

Mustafa saw his overall record drop to 50-8-1, 39 KOs when his blase attitude caught up to him in the person of former Kronk teammate Lawhorn. Eddie was looking to go 3-0 this year (all in the same ring). Never one to exhale in panic, the imperturbable one was strolling through rounds one and two in his usual shut down, keep cool style. Next thing you know, he's dropped by a left hook. Maintaining his composure, Eddie walked his foe around for a bit and even gestured to a concerned fan that he was all right. A few seconds later and he would be called a liar by referee Paul Venti, who stepped in to halt the action when Muhammad was backed to the far ropes and repeatedly racked with hooks, while not returning the fire. Quick ending? Maybe so, but the commission microscope is keeping close tabs on old warriors who could go at any time.

"No I wasn't surprised. I thought he was a little too old (36)," said a rather subdued winner (20-13-2, 12KOs). "I saw he was too slow to react (to my jab). I saw his eyes blink with a right to the nose, and then I followed with the (knockdown) hook." After holding off this reporter for awhile, the always cordial Eddie M's first words were, "I'm cool." He said he felt good going in but, "no question I got caught (the knockdown), but no way they should have stopped it. After I got up, the ref asked me where I was, and I said downtown Newark. I reacted under fire, had my hands up; the kid was hitting elbows; definitely a quick stoppage."

As for Saad, the brave gladiator looks quite fit on the outside, but the shock absorbers are worn out. Taking matters oh so seriously, he refuses to pull the plug. In his only other action this year, he won in just over 30 seconds; now he suffers nearly the same fate.

Reluctant to approve bums, the athletic control board went to the other extreme and allowed a swift execution. Hey, if Matt can beat this guy, well, he must be BACK. Saad failed, and he sank.

Saad was staggered with nearly every shot and the hard-punching Swindell put Muhammad on the lower rope with a right hand. Referee Randy Neumann ruled it a knockdown and gave Matthew the mandatory eight count. Driven to the far ropes, Matthew pulled his rope-a-dope, but was only fooling himself; it was target practice for Frankie, and Neumann didn't waste much time in slipping between the boxers to halt the one-sided bout.

Reluctant to face the music, Saad was a less than gracious loser, putting more than just a token disbelief into his plea to Neumann. "They didn't let me fight," said Saad. "I never got a chance. I wasn't hurt." A realistic Swindell knew that this was just another win; but this is a business first. "Matthew was a hero of mine, but I have to take some fights like this one to stay busy."

When I ran into Matthew the following morning in the hotel lobby, he was already compaigning for a return bout in Tennessee. A few days later, the control board announced it was pulling Saad's license in New Jersey. With the win (non-title), Swindell goes to 17-2-1, 11 KOs, while Matthew falls to 40-10-2, 29 KOs.

In an action-packed eight, Chad Riesel, 154¼, Her-

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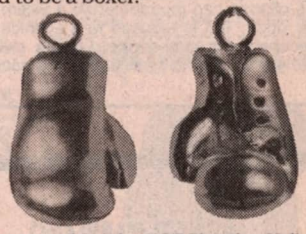

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kimer, NY, came from slightly off the pace (behind on all three cards) to TKO Derrick Davenport, 153¾, NYC, at 1:44 of the seventh. Davenport was drilled by a volley of right hands that had his head bouncing back and forth when ref Neumann decided that was enough.

Timekeeper: Roosevelt Gilbert.

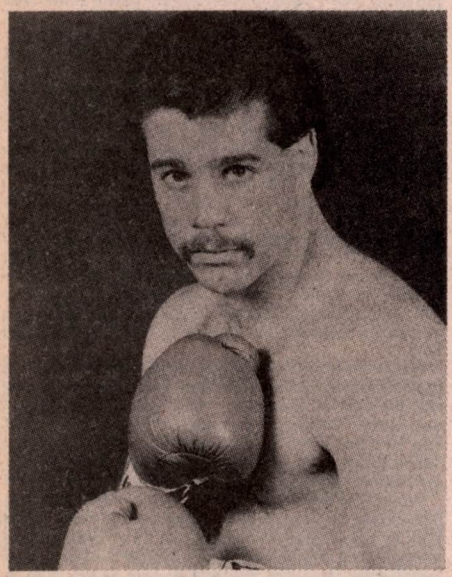
Judges: Ron Burns, Eva Shain & William Kostrub.

Promoter: Express Professional Sports (Qasim K. Akbar).

Announcer: Dennis Miller.

(10-21-88)

JACK OBERMAYER



Bobby Czyz got back in the winning groove with a hotly disputed decision over Leslie Stewart in a battle of former light heavyweight titleholders in Atlantic City.

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Resorts International—An excellent pairing between two former titleholders produced a bout that didn't lack for action, drama or competition. **Bobby Czyz**, 174, Wanaque, NJ, gained a hotly disputed split verdict over **Leslie Stewart**, 172¼, Port of Spain, Trinidad, via Ft. Lauderdale, 10. However, as seems to be the rule with the current crop of easy-to-assemble "champions," the outcome was decided more by the combatants' weaknesses than their strengths. Bobby's offense can thunder when a victim stands to face his doom, but is reduced to a sprinkle when the intended plays run-and-dodge. Leslie's skills can be gems when he controls the distance and pace, but they melt like costume jewelry when a roughneck turns up the heat. They stuck to the script like a "B" movie.

Czyz's thudding combos quickly showed who was boss. Solid hooks to the body followed by rights to the head had the West Indian's mind more on flight than fight as Bobby virtually swept the first four. But this was not going to be a standout performance for the local idol. Stewart finally caught him with a not-so-perfect mousetrap of a right counter in the fifth, buckling Bobby's knees. An aroused Czyz was able to battle back enough to pull even on the officials' cards. But it marked the end of Bobby's dominance as the invader launched his exciting come-from-behind drive in the second half.

The sixth was Stewart's best all-around session as a slowed Czyz allowed him to put his superior speed and mobility on display. Bobby's response was a foul-filled seventh that took Leslie out of his stride and had him complaining angrily to ref Frank Cappuccino. Czyz continued the vigorous attack into the eighth. But when he cornered Stewart and tried to go to the body, he was stunningly dropped by the same counter right that had begun the turnabout three rounds earlier. Hurt and embarrassed, he arose in time for the bell. Leslie tried to finish the job with an uncharacteristically furious assault as the final two rounds bristled. Czyz had declared going in, "I hope he decides to do that, because I would love to have him stand in front and slug it out." It was a sage observation. Despite Stewart's early success, Czyz had crashed through and was punishing him to close the ninth. The intruder harangued Bobby's fired-up fans from his corner and the judges all gave Stewart the round, but Czyz had broken him. The 10th was all Bobby as he swarmed over Stewart like an attack of the Huns.

The judges managed to open the right door, though by a circuitous route. Joe Pasquale had 96-93 and Milo Savage 96-95, while Lynne Carter made it a split with 95-94. The loser, falling to 25-4, was surprisingly generous. "It was pretty obvious the crowd was for Bobby," Leslie observed. "That might have affected the decision . . . It was a close fight, a good fight. I have no complaints about the way it turned out. The last round, I think, is where the judges were impressed by Bobby." The winner, rising to 33-3, was equally happy with his strong finish. Coming off nasal surgery aimed at correcting a supposed stamina problem, Bobby stated simply, "I was surprised it was that close. It probably wouldn't have been except for the flash knockdown in the eighth."

A fine match of prospects saw J. J. Watters, 145, Austin, TX, upset Mark Miller, 142, Cincinnati, with a TKO at 0:38 of the fifth, scheduled 10. The two eschewed subtlety and just stood and punched, with Watters in serious trouble in the second. But when Mark allowed a little room, he was nailed by a left hook that set up two crushing knockdowns and ref Tony Orlando's intervention. Miller fell to 9-2-1 and J. J. rose to 13-2-1.

Dennis Milton, 158, Bronx, and Pedro Rivera, 161, Lindenwold, NJ, scrambled to a majority draw in a frenetic four. Rivera, returning from nearly two years of inactivity, was able to hurt Milton, but was outsped in between. Dennis, who got Pasquale's vote, 39-37, went to 10-2-1, while Pedro had come in unbeaten in nine. Ref, Orlando.

Clever but frail Darryl Holly, 142¾, Brigantine, twice dropped overmatched Angel Rodriguez, 142, Phila., at the outset, but ended up scrambling for his life in a unanimous win, four. Ref, Cappuccino.

Jesus Cruz, 128, Paterson, got a "Brinks job" with a unanimous draw against Johnny "Rotten" Sciandra, 126, Phila., in a laughter, four. Cappuccino took three points for low blows, yet Cruz still had enough to beat "Rotten," who was down in the third and showed nothing.

Promoters: Bob Arum (Top Rank, Inc.).

Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner & Ron Katz.

Attendance: 1,200 (est.).

TV: ESPN.

Timekeeper: Art Spell.

Announcer: Mike Buffer.

(10-25-88)

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Showboat Hotel & Casino—A match that could have been panned as a has-been against a never-was ended with the winner, at least, indicating he may yet outlast the latter designation. Former WBC cruiser titlist **Alfonzo Ratliff**, 186, Chi., lost his USBA bauble to perennial also-ran **Jeff Lampkin**, 190, Youngstown, who managed an eye-opening performance. Though his career is largely one of unfulfilled promise, Lampkin showed he may not be finished yet, while Ratliff seemed just the opposite. The challenger took command sometime during the instructions and never loosened his grip.

Ratliff backed away like he was stalling for time, while Lampkin's stalking attack was as effective as it was controlled. Though more compact, Jeff was able to beat the rangy Alfonzo with a piston jab. Ratliff's unusual explanation was that he ". . . was trying to get him to think I didn't have much of a jab so that he'd come right to me." It worked . . . well, sorta. Only Ratliff didn't have much of a right, either. It was pinned to his side by hooks to the ribs that were visibly distressing, followed by numbing straight rights to the head. Alfonzo couldn't find enough fingers to plug the dike as Jeff had him hurt in the first, then all but off his feet with a fourth-round battering. In the fifth, some no-nonsense exchanging ended as a crackling hook off the jab sent a befogged Ratliff into retreat. When another hook and a right cross made him shudder, ref Tony Orlando decided Alfonzo'd had enough time to establish an alibi and abruptly halted the scheduled 12 at 2:14. The loser filed an immediate appeal, but he'd been convicted as much by his own failure to manage a convincing offense as by the effect of Lampkin's prosecution.

"He really wasn't going anywhere in this fight," the referee defended. "It was just a matter of time." To the charge that the slow starter might have come on to pull it out, Orlando deftly responded, "You can't referee a fight like that. You have to referee a fight at the time it's happening. If he's gonna stay up and take a beating, you have no choice but to stop a fight." Concurred Lampkin, "I was hitting him with everything. My hands were swelling up."

Ralph Ward, 156½, Lima, OH, via A.C., got an unpopular unanimous verdict over Mario Davis, 158, Buffalo, in an awful eight. Davis hurt Ward when he chose to throw, but couldn't sustain an effort, despite a swiping right-hand knockdown in the eighth. In between, they scrambled all over the ring, with Ralph's windmilling doing enough to please the judges, if not the fans. Ref, Steve Smoger.

Carl Sullivan, 154, Pittsburgh, was too much for Dave "Sugar" Wyatt Jr., 158, Richmond, early, but the game Wyatt fought off fatigue to give it a "college try." Sullivan garnered the unanimous decision in a good, though sometimes awkward six. Ref, Smoger.

Hulking Ken "Hands" Crosby, 222, A.C./Paulsboro, clobbered gritty, but hopelessly outmatched southpaw Harry Kallet, 193½, Syracuse, for a unanimous win in a bruising four. Ref, Frank Cappuccino.

Ray Farrait, 141, Bronx, was too aggressive for lanky Abdul "The Computer" Howard, 142¼, Buffalo, gaining a unanimous verdict in a scrappy four. Ref, Cappuccino.

Promoters: Gerry Cooney & Dennis Rappaport (SuperFights, Unlimited).

Matchmaker: Mike Acri.

Attendance: 650 (est.).

TV: USA Network.

Judges (Title Bout): Lynne Carter, Richard F. Murry & Al DeVito. (Undercard): Phil Newman, Rocky Castellani & Rich Strange.

Timekeeper: Art Spell.

Announcer: Ed Derian.

(11-17-88)

J. R. JOWETT

OHIO

▶**BROOKPARK**—International Expo Center—The NABF middleweight championship brought ESPN to the Cleveland area for the first time, but not without controversy.

With the title vacant due to the previous holder **Michael Nunn** winning the IBF belt, **Sanderline Williams**, 160, Cleveland, and **Ron Essett**, 160, Clearwater, Florida, were matched to fill the vacancy.

It appeared Essett was too polished for the hometowner as he scored with a steady jab and sharp right hands to build an early lead. But Williams rallied down the stretch, using his own left jab and outworking Essett on the inside. It had been announced before the bout that if the scheduled 12 ended in a draw, a 13th round would be fought to determine a victor. However, most ringsiders saw it as a clear win for Essett and were shocked when a three-way split draw was announced.

Oddly, most ringsiders saw the additional three minutes going to Williams, but Essett was declared the champion, Steve Smoger and Joe O'Neil scoring 124-123 and 126-122, respectively for Essett, while Sid Rubenstein had it 125-123, Williams. Meanwhile, NABF president Sam Macias was watching from Reno, Nevada. When he saw the fight was going an extra round, he tried to contact the Expo Center.

"The NABF doesn't recognize a 13th round because of the safety factor," said Macias. "If the local commission wants to rule that way to determine a winner, they can. But as far as the NABF is concerned, the fight's a draw."

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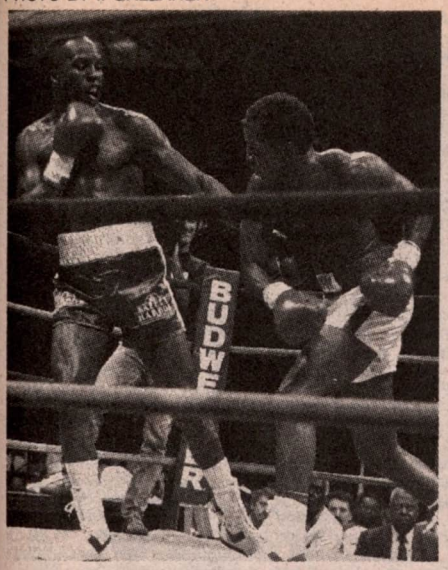

Ron Essett (left) backs away from Sanderline Williams during their controversial bout in Brookpark, Ohio. Essett won the decision after a "tie-breaking" 13th round.

However, two weeks later Macias cast the lone dissenting vote as the NABF championship rules committee decided by a 6-1 margin to give Essett the crown.

"We voted to recognize Essett as the champ even though the decision to let the fight go 13 rounds was contrary to our rules," said Dick Cole, chairman of the NABF ratings committee. "Both fighters fought in good faith. Neither can be held responsible. Since it was our representative who misinterpreted the rules, we'll take responsibility."

Olympic gold medalist **Jerry Page**, 146, Columbus, made a rare appearance and scored a unanimous 10-round decision over "Smokey" Joe Walker, 147, Akron. It was a rather lackluster affair, with neither impressing. Walker, who failed to live up to his nickname, was wobbled in the third and fifth and visited the canvas in Round Nine via a Page left hook. Walker did, however, have a big second round in which he hurt Page with digging hooks to the body. Scores: Don Woodland, 47-44; Tim Figley, 48-43; Doug Patterson, 46-44.

Mike DeVito, 176, Mentor, stayed busy with a seven-round TKO over late-sub Wardell Langston, 170, Youngstown, in a scheduled eight. DeVito was troubled with Langston's southpaw style, but landed a heavy right hand to drop the game lefty midway through the seventh. Langston got up at eight, but referee Ron Tillman wisely called a halt at 1:38.

In a rugged scheduled eight, Nick "The Golden Greek" Pappas, 196, Cleveland, stopped tough Ricardo Spain, 195, Columbus, at 2:40 of the seventh. A Pappas right sent Spain to the canvas. He arose, but a follow-up barrage convinced referee Jackie Keough to stop it.

Gino Calvillo, 148, Cleveland, scored a four-round TKO over Chris Carney, 146, Mansfield, in a scheduled four. Carney, coming off a five-year layoff, was cut over the left eye in the second and wobbled in the fourth when stopped with just 29 seconds left.

In the night's best action, Carl Griffith, 138, Lorain, and Anthony Stephens, 142, Tyler, Texas, battled to a four-round draw. Unfortunately, this bout didn't start until after midnight, and many of the fans had already left.

Promoter: John Giachetti/TKO Productions.
Matchmaker: John Giachetti.
Timekeeper: George Whitbread.
TV: ESPN.
Attendance: 1,500 (est.).
(10-18-88)

▶**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS**—Front Row Theatre—This was the first in a series of monthly shows by the new promoter in the Cleveland area, attorney Larry Weiser. He is a very welcome addition to northeast Ohio as most local pros have been starving for work here in recent years.

The card was excellent, all bouts being close and competitive and going the distance. A different story was the officiating, which was absolutely lousy.

The 10-round main go between Terry Davis, 228,

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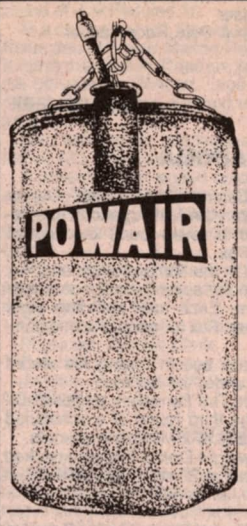

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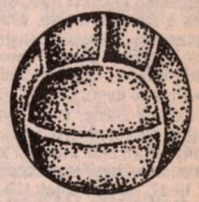

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Napa, California, and Harry Terrell, 230, Cleveland, ended in a three-way draw. There had been some controversy in the week leading to the fight as a local sports writer with limited boxing knowledge blasted the bout as being a "major mismatch," stating the 16-12 Terrell was no match for the 17-0-1 Davis. Of course, sometimes records mean nothing inside the ropes.

Davis did jump to an early lead, but Terrell rallied down the stretch, repeatedly nailing the onrushing Davis with jarring uppercuts.

Doug Patterson had it 46-46, Joe Hammett saw it 44-43, Terrell, and Kevin Novak, in his judging debut, had an incredible 50-41 for Davis.

In the semi-feature, Tom Hanks, 134, Cleveland, won the vacant Ohio lightweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over Forrest Winchester, 132, Columbus. Hanks was simply too strong and aggressive for the fine-boxing Winchester. Though Hanks repeatedly stuck his head in Winchester's face referee Jackie Keough, usually excellent, failed to warn him. Patterson scored 59-51 and Novak 60-50. Hammett scored 59-43! Way to use that point system, Joe!

In an outstanding eight-rounder, Roland Cummings, 139, Youngstown, came away with a majority nod over Sebastian Wilburn, 139, Benton Harbor, Michigan. This was a see-saw battle, with both rocked on numerous occasions. Patterson was on at 37-36, while Hammett, who scored several two-point rounds despite no knockdowns, had a liberal 35-30. Novak, who scored six rounds even, had 39-39!

LaMark Davis, 157, Dayton, received a gift in a four-round split nod over Rodney Tatum, 156, Akron. The burly Tatum took the fight to Davis and hurt him several times, earning the vote of Patterson, who had it right at 19-17. But Hammett (19-18) and Novak (19-17) voted for Davis.

Former amateur champion Darin Allen, 165, Columbus, made a successful pro debut by unanimously decisioning Mastapha Cole, 165, Cincinnati, in a four-rounder. Cole was down briefly in the third from a right hand. Scores: Patterson (20-15), Novak (19-17) and Hammett (20-14).

In the opener, Reggie Lewis, 190, Cleveland, pounded out a unanimous four-round verdict over Glen Kellog, 199, Cleveland. Both were making pro debuts. Scores: Patterson (20-16), Novak (20-15) and Hammett (19-13).

CUT MAN

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Promoter: Larry Weiser/Prime Time Fights.
Matchmaker: Larry Weiser.
Referees: Jackie Kough & Pete Rademacher.
Announcer: Ed Derian.
Attendance: 1,200 (est.).
(11-11-88)

ERICH GLIEBE

OKLAHOMA

▶**OKLAHOMA CITY**—Central Plaza—"Irish" Danny Morgan of Minneapolis won the Mid-American middleweight championship with a seven-round knockout of South Dakota's Quentin Fox.

Morgan was staggered in the fifth and sixth, and Fox remained on the attack in the seventh until a combination by Morgan hurt him. Each took standing eight counts until Morgan decked Fox for good, the end coming at 2:17.

Morgan suffered a black eye in raising his record 24-0, while Fox was cut under the left eye.

Green Bay heavyweight Tim Tomashek stopped Mickey Pryor of Dallas in the third round of a scheduled eight, improving his record to 14-2 with five knockouts.

Oklahoma City heavyweight Donny Hellyar knocked out Paul Tynes of Memphis at 22 seconds into the second round. Hellyar is 4-0, all by KO.
(10-18-88)

▶**OKLAHOMA CITY**—Central Plaza—Active Dan Morgan settled a score with Anthony Adams of St. Louis, stopping the visitor in four rounds of a rematch.

Adams was disqualified in their first meeting for kicking Morgan in the face!

Former lightweight contender Frank Newton stopped Tim Bonds in the sixth round when Bonds was cut badly over the eye.

Promoter: Sean Gibbons.
(11-1-88)

▶**OKLAHOMA CITY**—British Commonwealth cruiserweight champion **Glenn McCrory**, campaigning in America under trainer Beau Williford, knocked out Ron Warrior in the fourth round of a scheduled 10.

McCrory dominated the fight until he scored a left hook to the body that put Warrior down for the count at 2:58.

McCrory weighed 189¾ to 186 for Warrior.
(11-1-88)

PENNSYLVANIA

▶**PHILADELPHIA**—Woodhaven Sports Center—Two retreads, **Anthony Witherspoon** and **Gary Hinton**, attempted to recoup from shortfall careers, but met with differing results. Either way, hard-sell local fans were thoroughly disinterested as the open cable date was filled before a nearly empty house. Witherspoon, 187, Phila., was virtually assured of some sort of title shot in the wake of the Holyfield departure. But he blew it, dropping a unanimous decision to trialhorse **Tyrone Booze**, 192½, Hartford, in an outrageously dull 10. It was a fitting knell to a career pocked by stutter starts and extended idleness. Anthony all but creaked with rust as he trundled after Booze with punches that lacked the crackle to pop Tyrone's crab defense. Meanwhile, Booze tried coming out of his shell for round-stealing flurries that jolted Witherspoon now and then.

But that's not where the real action took place. Tyrone did a passable job of blocking and countering on the inside, but the mixing was so subdued as to go largely unnoticed. Much more prominent was the futile thudding of bodies that left the impression that Witherspoon may have won by virtue of exhibiting at least an intention to fight. But a ringside vantage point came in handy as the judges didn't miss the visitor's subtle inside work. Adalaide Tyndale voted 47-43, Charlie Sgrillo 48-43 and Manny Altman 48-42 as a stunned Booze, fully expecting a "homer," collapsed to the canvas in delight. While the winner indicated he may have quit had the verdict gone against him, the loser confessed he was faced with retirement because it didn't. "At my age, you don't get many chances to come back from something like this," Anthony affirmed. "His style had me confused. He's tough, he's smart, he covered up. What I should have been doing was when he started throwing punches, I shoulda thrown punches because it was the only time he was open." Anthony fell to 18-5, while Ty improved to 16-8-2. Ref, Ozzie Sadler.

By contrast, Hinton, 150, Phila., did rather well in stopping the more amenable Juan Alonso Villa, also 150, Guadalajara, Mex., via Harlingen, TX, in lively, albeit one-sided, action. Though a punching bag, devoid of the upset potential of Booze, the Mexican's durability could prove an embarrassment to any young tough bent on showing off his punching prowess. Not so Hinton, who scissored up Villa with a noteworthy mix of power and precision. Alonso suffered a cut left eye and a deep scalp laceration to say nothing of a plain old walloping when Dr. Ernest Williams ordered the scheduled 10 halted after the fourth.

The former IBF junior welter king rose to 28-4-2, but couldn't get out of the arena without suffering a defeat to the police department. Alerted by fight posters bearing his photo, the cops nabbed Gary for failure to appear in court to face an assault charge. "You sure you got the right guy?" pleaded the suspect. "I mean, there are a lot of Gary Hintons out there." Ref, Rudy Battle.

Willie "The Little Worm" Monroe, 163, Ithaca, NY, hit too hard for Warren Knotts, 160, Winston-Salem, blasting him out with a two-knockdown TKO at 1:55 of the first, scheduled six. Ref, Battle.

Carlos Santiago, 162, Phila., outlasted Keith Todd, 160, Phila., for a unanimous win in a free-swinging four. The fight broke open when Todd was dropped in the second. Ref, Sadler.

In the best fight on the card, promising Ronnie Hammonds, 145½, Phila., went 3-0-1, but had his hands full with debuting Jasper Ray Goddard, 141½, Wash., DC. Jasper took a standing eight in the second, but fought Hammonds tooth and nail 'til stopped in exhaustion at 2:54 of the fourth and last round. Ref, Battle.

In a lively, but less well-fought four, Don Carroll, 165, Camden, started well, but folded when Greg Paige, 162½, Phila., hit back. Carroll was stopped on his feet at 1:03 of the final round. Ref, Sadler.

Promoters: Alessi Promotions & Vic Capcino.
Matchmaker: Harold Moore.
Attendance: 150, $1,800 (est.).
TV: USA Network.
Timekeeper: Tony Stenza.
Announcer: Mel Perry.
(10-20-88)

J. R. JOWETT

TENNESSEE

▶**MEMPHIS**—Omni-New Daisy Theatre—Detroit's **Hurley "Dr. Prescription" Snead**, 122, improved to 38-2 with a unanimous 10-round decision over game Edgar Garcia, 125, El Paso, Texas.

Garcia was hurt late in the second round, but fought back well to go the distance.

"All I have to do is keep winning and one (a title shot) will come in my direction," the 29-year-old Snead told Thomas Harding of *The Commercial Appeal*. "I saw him fight one of my stablemates. I knew he was a good fighter and could take a punch. He threw a good, accurate jab."

Memphian Knox Brown, 160, stopped Brian Lacostro, 158, Tupelo, Mississippi, at 2:05 of the fourth round of a scheduled six.

Greg "The Beale Street Hitman" Dickson, 152, didn't waste any time as he annihilated fellow Memphian James Kirkwood, 149, in just 31 seconds of a scheduled six to improve to 18-1.

Millington's Reggie Barnes, 157, earned a six-round unanimous decision over Gary Thomas, 161, Evansville, Indiana.

Jackson's Lester Yarbrough, 159, stopped Memphian Marcellus Jackson, 165, at 2:58 of the third of a scheduled six.

In the opener, Jackson's Tim Dendy, 154, TKO'd Nashville's Kevin Hall, 151, when Hall failed to answer the bell for the final round of a scheduled four.

Promoter: Tom Harmon/Mid South Boxing.
Matchmakers: Peyton Sher & Red Fortner.
Announcer: Sam Garland.
Judges: Gilbert Beam, Mark Acheson, James Perkins, Haywood Watts & Sonny Hanks.
Referees: Jim Kidd & Irving Tucker.
Timekeeper: Rod Cardone.
Physician: Jeff Hoover.
Attendance: 500 (est.).
(11-1-88)

MICHAEL GLENN

READ THE RING

TEXAS

George Foreman (right) muscles Tony Fulilangi into the ropes en route to a third-round kayo in Foreman's hometown of Marshall, Texas.

▶**MARSHALL**—Marshall Civic Center—The comeback of **George Foreman** continued in the ex-heavyweight champion's home town as Foreman flattened Tony Fulilangi for the count at 2:26 of the third round of a scheduled 10.

Foreman, who weighed 250 in upping his record to 58-2 with 55 KOs, decked Fulilangi early in the second with a left to the face, then put him down again with a short right. Though Foreman appeared to miss a wild right, Fulilangi went down a third time, ending the mismatch.

Fulilangi, fighting out of Salt Lake City via Tonga, fell to 39-4-2 with 36 KOs. He weighed 216.

Nate Houser, 176, went eight rounds for the first time in winning a unanimous decision over David Acosta, 176½.

Heavyweight Tim Morrison stopped Tim Anderson in four rounds.

Dino Homsey, 201, Las Vegas, stopped Joe McNeeley, 216, Houston, in two.

A scheduled four ended in just 1:35, Billy Bob Cook, 162, stopping Craig Cypert, 161.

Promoter: Super Pro Events.
Physician: Paris Bransford.
Timekeeper: RC Ballen.
Judges: Dick Cole, Lee McCowan & Ken Fewell.
Referees: Barry Yates & Arlen Bynum.
(10-27-88)

▶**SAN ANTONIO**—A five-bout card produced five knockouts, with less than 12 rounds of boxing.

The scheduled 10-round main event was one of three fights to end in the second round, Robert Quiroga, 116¼, stopping Edgar Contreras, 114½, Mexico, in just 2:14.

Martin Ortegon, 127½, knocked out Eduardo Rodriguez, 129, at 2:06 of the fifth of a scheduled eight.

Roland Rangel, 134, knocked out Alfonso Chavez, 128½, Mexico, in just 1:45 of a scheduled six.

Another scheduled six saw Alfred Rangel, 130¾, knock out Mexico's Fernando Ramos, 128, at 2:21 of the second.

In a scheduled four, James Leija, 127, knocked out Mexican Martin Melendez, 129¼, at 1:36 of the second.

Promoter: Rich Lander.
Physician: Gerardo Zavala.
Referees: Leonard Zuniga & Enrique Coronado.
Timekeeper: Joe Masterpool.
Judges: Sam Duran, Vincent Amaya & Wilfred Esperon.
(11-3-88)

▶**FORT WORTH**—Former WBA junior welterweight titleholder **Gene Hatcher**, 150, Fort Worth, stopped Mexican Indian David Maldonado, 150, at 2:43 of the sixth round of a scheduled 10.

In a companion 10, Rogelio Lopez, 131, took a unanimous decision over Marino Ramirez, 131½. Lopez was to have met **Bobby Chacon**, but Texas wouldn't license the 36-year-old Chacon. Lopez won 99-93, 99-91 and 100-91 as Ramirez suffered a cut eyebrow. Lopez is 14-8-1.

Also winning by unanimous vote was Gilbert Contreras, 123, who outscored Sam Jones, 122, over eight.

A scheduled six ended quickly, Scott Johnson, 147, stopping Moses Robinson, 148¼, in just 2:52.

Melvin Young, 215, stopped debuting Champion B. Christian, 214½, at 1:18 of the second of a scheduled four.

Arthur Watson, 153, and Wayne Corbet, 157, made pro bows against each other, Watson winning a unanimous nod after four.

Promoter: Super Pro Events.
Physician: Cordell Clark.
Referee: Steve Crosson.
Judges: Jack Woodruff, Gary Snapka & Roc Disario.
(10-23-88)

VIRGINIA

▶**VIRGINIA BEACH**—*The Ring*'s No. 2 lightweight contender, **Pernell Whitaker**, 140, stayed sharp with a four-round stoppage of Louisiana's Antoine Carter, 136, in the scheduled 10-round main event.

Whitaker, of Virginia Beach, weighed 140.

Baltimore's John Keys, 164, stopped Portsmouth's Ken Shannon, 164, in the final round of a scheduled eight.

The remainder of the bouts were scheduled for four rounds each.

Norfolk's Stacy Burrus, 146, decisioned Richmond's Martin Musake, 146.

Mark Randazzo, 188, Chicago, knocked out Todd LeMaster, 186, Spartanburg, South Carolina, in the first.

Alonzo Cutchins, 186, Charlottesvile, knocked out Norfolk's Cornelius Harris, 188, in the second.

New York's Ruben Flores, 187, knocked out Spartanburg's Reid Gossett, 190, in the first.

Promoter: Main Events.
Referees: Green & Witt.
Judges: Traylor, James, Bryan & Wollesen.
Timekeepers: Latham & Gold.
Physicians: Jones & Lochmann.
(11-2-88)

▶**BEALETON**—Hugo's—Antonio DeBarros, Cape Verde Island, stopped Thomas Warren, 141, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in the fourth round of a scheduled eight-rounder.

Culpepper's Troy Emerson, 166, knocked out Charles Carter, Charlottesville, 168, in the first of a scheduled six.

Alexandria's Anthony Ross, 144, stopped Portsmouth's Calvin Moody, 146, in the final round of a four.

Promoter: JEJ Productions.
Referees: Rothenberg & Levy.
Judges: LaPrade, Exton.
Timekeepers: Carpenter & Doggett.
Physicians: Sprenkle & Levy.
(11-9-88)

MEXICO

NORTH BAJA CALIFORNIA

▶**TIJUANA**—Former WBC junior flyweight challenger **German Torres** won by disqualification over Isaias Zamudio.

▶**TIJUANA**—Lightweight Ignacio "Tigre" Perdomo (23-3 with 21 KOs) TKO'd Ramon Verdugo in the first round.
(8-22-88)

SOUTH BAJA CALIFORNIA

▶**LA PAZ**—Welterweights Timoteo "Africano" Zavaleta and Carlos Maxiste drew in 10.

Featherweight Jose Luis "Puma" Rodriguez KO'd Martin Morales in one.

Lightweight Silvestre Romo chilled Luis Montes in one.

Featherweight Fernando Mayoral embalmed Tomas Moreno in two.

Featherweight Jesus Gomez destroyed Gabriel Ojeda in three.

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Welterweight Moises Montoya stiffened Fili Beltran in the first.
(8-19-88)

▶**SANTA ROSALIA**—Lightweight Miguel Molina polished off "Chavalo" Ojeda in seven.
(8-28-88)

CAMPECHE

▶**CARMEN**—Rafael Briceno iced Juan Catzin in the sixth round of a featherweight match.

CHIHUAHUA

▶**JUAREZ CITY**—Fernando "Fernie" Morales TKO'd Antonio Lozada in five rounds to retain his Mexican bantamweight crown.
(8-12-88)

GUANAJUATO

▶**IRAPUATO**—Light heavyweight Memo Chavez KO'd Jesus Machuca in three.

Fidel Marin nailed "Apache" Zaragoza in five, feathers.

Middleweight Juan Hernandez halted Eutiquio Medina in two.

Lightweight Javier Leon TKO'd Fernando Roldan in one.

Miguel Angel Garcia decisioned "Pulgarcito" Nava in four, flyweights.
(8-12-88)

DURANGO

▶**DURANGO CITY**—Leobardo Mancillas chilled Pedro Alonso in four, lightweights.

Lightweight Tomas Quinones nailed Alberto Miranda in three.
(8-19-88)

FEDERAL DISTRICT

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Arena Coliseo—Felipe "Matador" Fuentes TKO'd Juan Guardado in two, lightweights.

Lightweight Rogelio "Exterminador" Montenegro iced unbeaten Enrique Apango in one.

Bantamweight Juan "Tigrillo" Valenzuela TKO'd Silverio "Chamaco" Ortiz Jr. in seven.

Justo Zuniga and Fernando Martinez drew in 10, flyweights.

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Bantamweight Vincente Hernandez halted Nicolas Cornejo in one.
(8-6-88)

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Arena Naucalpan—Flyweight Armando "Jaiba" Salazar won a unanimous decision over Adolfo Anguiano in 10.

Flyweight Candido Corona whipped Concepcion Velazquez in eight.

Flyweight Juan Gutierrez outscored Javier Hernandez in six.

Flyweight Alberto Jimenez beat Ivan Salazar in four.
(8-13-88)

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Arena Coliseo—Mario Alberto Rodriguez nailed Herminio Hernandez in 10, lightweights.

Featherweight Francisco Ortiz defeated Albino Rosas in 10.

Featherweight Gregorio "Goyo" Vargas TKO'd Cuauhtemoc Sanchez in one.

Bantamweight Rogelio Perez beat Nemesio Interian in six.

Featherweight Gerardo Cedillo TKO'd Javier Sanchez in four.

Flyweight Jose Sarabia TKO'd Aragon Perez in five.
(8-13-88)

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Arena Coliseo—Diego Avila outscored Rene "Rana" Rodriguez in a 10-round featherweight bout.

Featherweight Javier Medina TKO'd Mario Garcia in two.

Oscar Gallegos polished off Miguel Angel Alvarez in one, lightweights.

Cuauhtemoc Gomez TKO'd Carmelo Perez in one, flyweights.

Flyweight Gregorio Castaneda KO'd Hilario Manjarrez in one.

Lightweight Goyo Flores TKO'd Margarito Rodriguez in three.
(8-20-88)

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Arena Coliseo—Featherweight Porfirio "Killo" Hernandez whipped Gerardo "Canas" Esparza in 10.

Javier Pichardo won a split decision over Migue "Jarocho" Gonzalez in a lightweight 10.

Bantamweight Julio Pliego outscored Jorge Samano in eight.

Welterweight Jesus Cardenas KO'd Gerardo Vargas in one.

Lightweight Erasto Ramos won a two-round disqualification over Wilfrido Gonzalez.

Lightweight Raul Feregrino TKO'd Julio Gamboa in two.
(8-27-88)

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Arena Naucalpan—Sulio Sanchez, brother of the late **Salvador Sanchez**, TKO'd Zacatecas state welterweight champion Arturo "Chino" Lopez in five.

Ricardo Lopez improved to 15-0 with a five-round KO of Evaristo Morales in a flyweight match.
(8-27-88)

QUINTANA ROO

▶**CHETUMAL**—Flyweight Leonardo Lenisman won from Jose Esteban "Momia" Quijano in 10.

Flyweight Alcibiades Gallegos whipped Manuel "Manny" Morales in eight.
(8-12-88)

SONORA

▶**HERMOSILLO**—Jorge "Cocas" Ramirez decisioned Sergio "Chocolate" Zambrano in a 10-round lightweight matchup.

VERACRUZ

▶**MINATITLAN**—Pedro de la Cruz KO'd Vincente "Soldadito" Ramos in two of a featherweight contest.
(7-30-88)

▶**VERACRUZ**—Lightweight Jose Luis Bautista chilled Jose "Toro" Hernandez in seven.

Flyweight Moi "Venenito" Rodriguez outscored Moises Soriano in 10.

Flyweight Jose Luis Bueno TKO'd Julio Hernandez in five.

Featherweight Raul Martinez Mora Jr. TKO'd Castulo Cruz in three.

Bantamweight Gerardo Mejia TKO'd Manuel Quintero in two.
(8-19-88)

TAMAULIPAS

▶**NUEVO LAREDO**—Tamaulipas state featherweight champion Mario Gomez KO'd Roberto "Kid" Herrera in four.

Bantamweight Rodolfo Gomez chilled Eduardo "Jimmy" Marti in one.
(8-26-88)

YUCATAN

▶**MERIDA**—Former Mexican junior flyweight king **Jorge Cano** won a unanimous decision over Javier Alonso in 10.

Bantamweights Candelerio "Changuito" Carmona and Fernando "Candelita II" Varquez drew in 10.

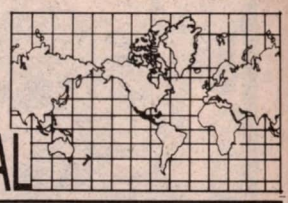
Flyweight Basilio Morales TKO'd Hernan Cob in two.

Bantamweight Jorge Chel TKO'd Tilo Duran in six.

Bantamweight Luis Ruiz Lizarraga TKO'd Luis Casanova in two.
(8-6-88)

▶**NOTES:** Former WBA flyweight champion **Juan Herrera** announced his retirement in Merida, Yucatan August 6, 1988.

EDUARDO AMER



CENTRAL AMERICA

PUERTO RICO

▶**BAYAMON**—Once acclaimed the logical successor to **Sugar Ray Leonard** as boxing's most charismatic figure, **Hector "Macho" Camacho** took a step forward in trying to regain that position with a four-round TKO of Canadian Rick Souce in his first start here in five years.

Camacho took charge from the outset and was particularly effective with rapid-fire right jabs which he followed with short left hooks. Souce seemed to be biding his time, countering on rare occasions but usually falling short of the mark.

The blow that did the trick was a sharp left at the sound of the bell ending the third round. Souce went back to his corner with a nasty gash over his left eye. At 1:50 of the fourth, referee Mariano Soto was instructed by the commission doctor to halt the bout as he felt it would be impossible for Souce to continue.

The tough Canadian was disappointed because he felt he was beginning to gain momentum.

"I was pacing myself and felt Camacho was beginning to tire," said Souce.

But Camacho had another story, saying, "I hadn't felt so good in a long time and I'm ready for my million dollar match with **Ray Mancini**."

Camacho hopes a win over Mancini will lead to a junior welterweight title match and a third title and appeared much improved from his previous showing against Dominican Reyes Cruz, who dropped Camacho for the only time in his career.

The semifinal eight saw undefeated light heavy Freddie Delgado continue his knockout streak with an easy two-round victory over David Butler. Butler was no match for the heavy-hitting islander and was stopped at 1:27.

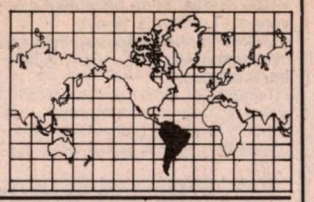
With trainer Victor Valle in his corner, Randall Yonkers moved to 12-0 by displaying terrific punching power in annihilating Ron Beadsley in the first of another light heavyweight bout. Valle was accompanied by former charge **Gerry Cooney**, who received a good round of applause when presented.

Camacho's kid brother, Felix, ran his record to 2-0 when he earned a four-round decision over Mexican Jaime Castellanos in a pleasing featherweight bout. Felix is a good imitator of his big brother in style and attire.

Feather Miguel Rodriguez scored two knockdowns on his way to a four-round win over Victor Laureano.

Ricky Marquez won a split four-round decision over Agustin Silva in a lightweight match.
(10-23-88)

MARIO RIVERA MARTINO



SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

▶**SAO PAULO**—Jandira—Waldevino Monteiro won a 10-round decision over Wilson Goncalves to take the vacant Brazilian lightweight championship.
(9-9-88)
▶**BELEM DO PARA**—Redigildo Conceicao became the Brazilian super flyweight champion with a 10-round decision over Paulo Ribeiro.
(9-23-88)
▶**SAO PAULO**—CMTC Clube—Orlando Nascimento won a six-round decision over Antonio de Fatima in a light heavyweight bout in which each made his pro debut.
(9-27-88)

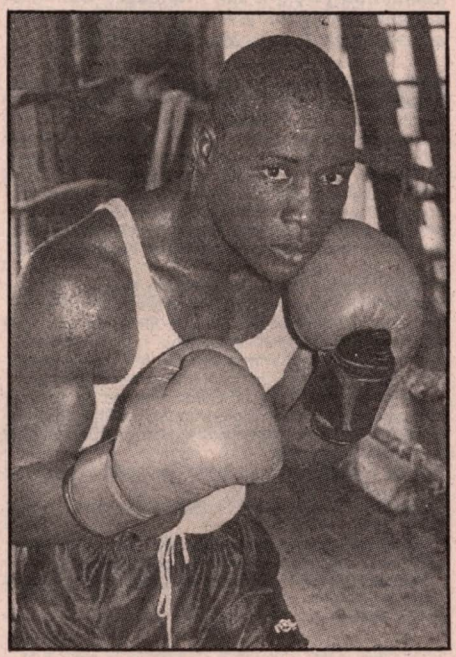
KALED CURI

COLOMBIA

▶**BARRANQUILLA**—La Campana Restaurant—Colombian bantamweight champion Carlos Rocha KO'd Alfredo Gomez in the third round of a non-title bout.
Bantamweight Atenor Solar outpointed Hernan Boneth in four.
New Colombian prospect Jimmy Garcia knocked out veteran Rafael Silgado in the fifth of a featherweight match.
Welterweight Edison Martinez KO'd Leovilgildo Hernandez in six.
Flyweight Genaro Manjarres KO'd Carlos Reyes in three.
Manuel Valdez made his pro debut with a decision over Alcides Hernandez in a welterweight match.
Featherweight Gonzalo Saldano decisioned Carlos Garcia over six.
Attendance: 300 (est.).
(9-30-88)
▶**BARRANQUILLA**—Local Modelo Jail—In the celebration of the "Day of the Prisoners," flyweight Dewis James Pamberti outpointed Manuel Julio in four.
(9-21-88)
▶**CARTAGENA**—Cartagena Real Hotel Tennis Court—Luis "Chicanero" Mendoza KO'd Salatiel Palacios in two rounds of a featherweight clash.
Arcelio Diaz, Cartagena, TKO'd Alejandro Ricardo, Sincelejo, in the sixth of a lightweight bout when Ricardo failed to answer the bell for the seventh.
Francisco Alvarez TKO'd Jesus Geles in four, bantams.
Eudo Bermudez won an eight-round decision over Joselo Perez, featherweights.
Featherweight Carlos Rodriguez outpointed Jose Luis Gomez over four.
Bantamweight Carlos Mercado made his pro debut with a four-round decision over Rafael Prada.
Promoter: Hotel International Promotions.
Referee: Uriel Aguilera.
(9-30-88)
▶**BEILLO ANTIOQUIA**—Coliseo Cubierto—**Elvis Alvarez** retained his Latin American flyweight crown with a five-round TKO of Monteria's Jorge Lugo.
Ruben Palacios retained his Latin American super bantamweight title with a 12-round decision over Cartagena's Alvaro Narvaez.
Ezequiel Hernandez outpointed Cartegena's Ruben Garcia in eight, featherweights.
Moises Fuentes won an eight-round decision over Jose Burgos, featherweights.
Featherweight Wilson Palacios knocked out Cartagena's Alejandro Sarabia in the second round.
Referees: Uriel Aguilera & Luis Estrada.
Attendance: 1,000 (est.).
(10-7-88)
▶**BARRANQUILLA**—RJ Gymnasium—Daniel Blanco iced Jose Miranda in the first round, featherweights. Miranda was a substitute for Manuel Julio. Three weeks later, Blanco was held up and slightly wounded in Barranquilla.
Manuel Valdez won a four-round decision over Ivan Silgado, welterweights.
Leo Padilla TKO'd Luis Hernandez in two, featherweights.
Abel Alarcon won a four-round unanimous decision over Tomas Diaz in a welterweight bout.
In the best fight, lightweight Felipe Caceres TKO'd Santander Vargas in the fourth.
(10-7-88)
▶**BARRANQUILLA**—La Campana Restaurant—Comebacking local **Francisco Tejedor**, 112⅜, stopped Jaime Diaz, 107, in the seventh.
Local prospect Jimmy Garcia, 126⅜, remained unbeaten by outpointing Alejandro Ricardo, 127, over six.
Manuel Valdez, 143⅓, outpointed Jose Nieto, 141⅜, over four.
Uriel Londono decisioned Francisco de Arco in six, flyweights.
Leo Padilla, 123½, knocked out Cartagena's Jorge Meriano, 123½, in two.
Bogota's Mauricio Bernal, 111½, won a unanimous eight-round decision over Jorge Hurtado, 112.
Edison Martinez, 145½, stopped Cartagena's Simon Ramos, 147⅓, in four.
Santa Marta's Gonzalo Saldana, 126⅜, flattened Cartagena's Manuel Garzon, 129⅕, in three.
Eduardo Molina, 148⅒, KO'd Edilberto Villarreal, 154, in two.
Ivan Silgado, 130, KO'd Albarto Arias, 130, in the first.
Promoter: Pugilismo.
Attendance: 400 (est.).
(10-29-88)

LUIS A. GONZALEZ V.

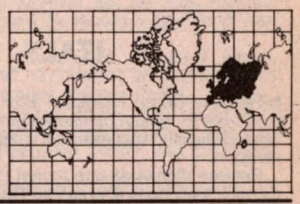
FRENCH GUIANA



Michael Benjamin survived two knockdowns to hold French lightweight champion Karim Rabbi to a thrilling 10-round draw in French Guiana.

▶**CAYENNE**—National Hall of Sports—Guyana and WBC Continental Championship of the Americas lightweight champion Michael Benjamin put on a sterling performance against French lightweight champion Karim Rabbi to gain only a mere draw after a tough and thrilling 10-round encounter.
From the first bell it was obvious to those in the packed hall that it was going to be a keen contest as each endeavored to establish his authority with power punches.
Rabbi was at his best in Round Two, executing sharp right crosses that had Benjamin on the canvas on two occasions for mandatory counts. Benjamin did well to survive this round, but took the initiative in the fourth, chasing Rabbi, who may have had a slight margin.
From the fourth on, the Guyanese champ pierced his man with sharp left jabs and hard right crosses, mixed with occasional combinations.
The decision was mildly protested by the fans as Benjamin's log now reads 16-1-1 with 10 KOs, while Rabbi is 20-4-1 with 16 KOs.
(10-28-88)

WILL BOODHOO



EUROPE

FRANCE

▶**GRENOBLE**—Local Denis Truchet knocked out Britain's Rocky Burton in the sixth round of a scheduled eight-round heavyweight match.
(10-28-88)
▶**ECHIROLLES**—Bantamweight Lionel Fioraventi stopped Cecilio Ramires in the first round.
Lightweight Angel Mona stopped Mohamed Bahi in five.

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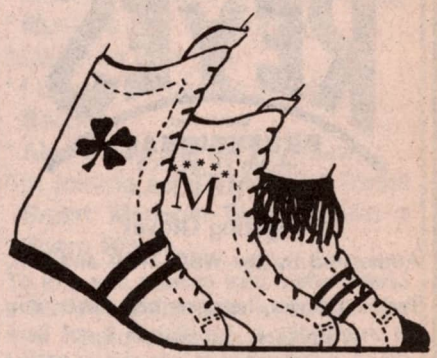

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Welterweight Carmelo Nato stopped Patrice Delacourt in three.

Light heavyweight Akim Tafer stopped Pascal Neodo in four.
(10-21-88)

▶**ROYAT**—Christian Merle stopped Eric Coroyez in the fifth round of a lightweight match.
(10-21-88)

▶**CALAIS**—Thiery Jacob knocked out Miguel Pequeno in the second round, featherweights.

Bruno Jacob won a six-round lightweight decision over Mario Salazar.

Featherweight Herve Jacob won in the third round when the corner of Segura Perez threw in the towel.
(10-21-88)

▶**SAINT DIZIER**—Heavyweight Jean Chanet won an eight-round decision over Jacob Christ.
(10-29-88)

ITALY

▶**PAOLA**—British champion Billy Hardy failed in his try for the European bantamweight crown as local Vincenzo Belcastro was awarded a controversial 12-round decision.

Referee Michael Assaro scored 116-116, but was overruled by the judges who scored 118-115 and 120-118 for Belcastro, 117¼. Particularly unusual was the last score which translated to two rounds for Belcastro with 10 even!

The 24-year-old Hardy, 117, who suffered his fourth loss, staggered Belcastro in the third round and in the sixth opened a cut over the champion's right eye. Assaro allowed Belcastro to continue, and the Italian rallied down the stretch.

In other bouts, Italian **Nino LaRocca** prepped for a shot against **Kirkland Laing** for the vacant European welterweight title by stopping Britain's Ken Foreman in the sixth of a scheduled eight. Foreman was down twice in Round Five.

Freddy Cruz of the Dominican Republic outpointed England's Nigel Haddock in an eight-round featherweight match.

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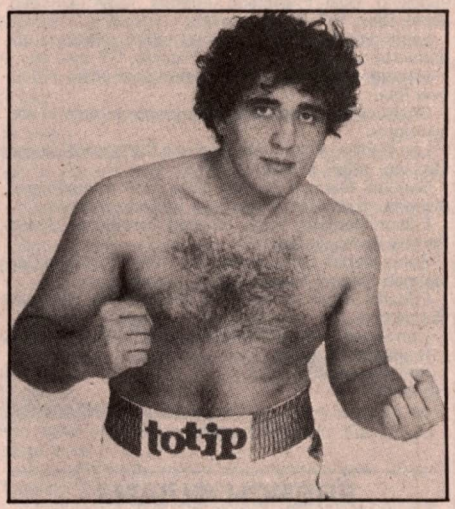
The show was originally scheduled for Belcastro's home town of Fuscaldo, but strong winds forced a change to nearby Paola. The crowd was announced as 1,500, but was actually twice that number.
(11-2-88)

▶**SAN GIUSEPPE VESUVIANO**—Middleweight Francesco Dell'Aquila won a 10-round decision over Jose Rosemain.

Judas Clottey, 153½, fought an eight-round draw with Italian prospect Paolo Pesci, also 153½.

Giuseppe Perrella stopped Assunto Schiavello in the fourth round of a lightweight match when Schiavello was cut and unable to continue.

Lightweight Nicola Cara knocked out Hassen Medbi in four.
(10-29-88)



Italian heavyweight star Francesco Damiani stopped American Tyrell Biggs in five rounds, avenging his loss in the 1984 Olympics.

▶**MILAN**—European heavyweight champion **Francesco Damiani**, 230¼, stopped **Tyrell Biggs**, 229, in the fifth round of a scheduled 10.

Biggs did not go down, but was cut badly over the right eye and was taking a pounding when the fight was stopped 65 seconds into the final frame.

The stoppage was the 19th for Damiani, who has won all 22 starts since losing to Biggs in the 1984 Olympic super heavyweight final. Biggs, in action for the first time since being stopped by **Mike Tyson** in seven rounds, fell to 15-2.

Biggs held his own in the opening session, but the aggressive 30-year-old Italian, who had lost to Biggs in two other amateur bouts, as well, took control in the second and hurt the Philadelphian. Both finished the third marked, Biggs with a swollen left eye, Damiani with a puffy right eye compliments of the Biggs jab.

The jab couldn't hold off Damiani in the fourth, and he plowed right through Biggs, hurting the Philadelphian several times. A two-fisted flurry produced the cut and the eventual stoppage.

Loris Stecca, 123¾, stopped Fernando Castaneda, 128½, in five.

Salvatore Fanni, 115½, knocked out Andy "Tony" Smith, 119¾, in the first.

Habib Hammami, 138¾, stopped Bruno Demontis, 137¾, the towel coming in in the second round.

Marcelo DiCroce, 147, and Mel Justin, 152, drew in eight.
(10-29-88)

NETHERLANDS

▶**ROTTERDAM**—Rotterdam Sports Palace—Pedro Van Raamsdonk's reign as European light heavyweight champion lasted just two months, but the title remains in The Netherlands.

Van Raamsdonk was unanimously outpointed by fellow Dutchman Jan Lefeber in 12 rounds, the margins being one, three and four rounds on the official scorecards.

Van Raamsdonk, 173, had a significant height and reach advantage over Lefeber, but the challenger prevailed in what often became a sloppy contest. The 27-year-old Lefeber is 19-4-1.

Alex Blanchard captured the Dutch light heavyweight title by knocking out Johnny Held in the sixth round on the undercard.
(11-7-88)

UNITED KINGDOM

▶**LONDON**—Battersea Town Hall—Serge Fame, 172, Paddington, avenged a previous defeat and won the vacant Southern Area light heavyweight title by outpointing Glazz Campbell 173½, Brockley, referee Larry O'Connell scoring 98½-98 after 10.

Skip Jackson, 154, Leeds, stopped Tony Williams, 153¼, Ealing, referee Jack Snipe intervening at 1:20 of Round Four after Williams had been down.

Brazilian Roberto Gomez, 168½, came in as a substitute and stopped Lou Ayres, 163¼, Streatham, referee Snipe calling a halt at 1:20 of Round One with Ayres under pressure. Gomez now lives in London.

Steve West, 154, Fulham, kayoed Spencer Alton, 153, Alfreton, who was counted out by referee O'Connell at 0:50 of Round Three.

Dave Mohammad, 187¼, Eastbourne, stopped Thomas Henry, 182, Leeds, referee Snipe intervening at 1:20 of Round Three after substitute Henry had been floored by rights to the head.
(9-13-88)

▶**HIGH WYCOMBE**—Town Hall—Bertie James, 127½, High Wycombe, outpointed Gary King, 126, Luton, referee Mike Jacobs scoring 79-77½ after eight twos.

Debutant Dave Worthington, 148½, Hayes, outpointed Chas Haydon, 148¾, Greenwich, referee Jacobs casting 59-58 after six.

Roy Horn, 151½, Maidenhead, outpointed Gary Dyson, 149, Rhyl, referee Reg Thompson scoring 59½-58½ after six twos.

Mickey Lloyd, 149, Acton, outpointed Gerry Beard, 151, Nottingham, referee Thompson's card showing 60-57½ after six twos.

Kid Sumaila, Ghana, 136, outpointed Richard Dimmock, 136½, Wokingham, referee Jacobs scoring 58½-58 after six twos.

Michale Driscoll, 142½, Portsmuth, drew with Ricky Maxwell, 144, Nottingham, over six twos. Referee Thompson.
(9-15-88)

▶**LONDON**—National Sporting Club—Tony Richards, 143, Nottingham, stopped Andrew Furlong, 145, Paddington, referee Roy Francis intervening at 0:25 of Round Seven of a scheduled eight after Furlong had been floored by a left hook. Richards' cut by the right eye needed three stitches. Furlong was down twice previously.

Jimmy McDonagh, 157, Hastings, survived two knockdowns to stop M.P. (Mick) Murray, 155, Doncaster, referee Paddy Sower intervening at 2:10 of Round Three of a scheduled six with Murray under pressure.

Mike Aubrey, 182, South Benfleet, outpointed Cordwell Hylton, 188, Walsall, referee Sower casting 60-58 after six.

Debutant Alan McKay, 126¾, Willesden, outpointed Mike Chapman, 128¼, Llanelli, referee Francis casting 59-58½ after six twos.
(9-19-88)

▶**MANCHESTER**—Anglo American Sporting Club—Darren Mount, 138, Sheffield, outpointed Brian Cullen, 138, Dublin, referee Harry Warner scoring 79-78 after eight.

Russell Barker, 178, Nottingham, stopped Darren McKenna, Sheffield, 176, referee Warner intervening at 1:12 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos after McKenna had been down twice.

Debutant Mike Close, 128, Belfast, stopped Matt Calderwood, 129, Manchester, also making his debut, referee Keith Garner calling a halt at 1:19 of Round Four in a scheduled six twos after Calderwood had been down.

Tony Smith, 122, Burnley, outpointed debutant Paul Dever, Liverpool, referee Garner's card showing 59-58½ after six twos.
(9-5-88)

▶**WOLVERHAMPTON**—Civic Hall—A great win for the 35-year-old Roy Skeldon, Tipton, 174, who stopped Denys Cronin, 169, Senghenydd, referee Terry O'Connor intervening at 1:50 of Round Three in a dramatic contest. Skeldon was down twice and looked booked for defeat when he landed a right hand that shook his opponent, and with Cronin under pressure and cut by

the left eye the bout was stopped. Skeldon has been a pro for just over 16 years.

Midlands Area lightweight champion Peter Till, 134¼, Walsall, stopped Jim Moffat, 135¼, Kilmarnock, referee Paul Thomas calling a halt at 2:05 of Round Four in a scheduled eight after Moffat had been down five times.

Shaun Cooper, 135¼, beat Johnny Walker, Kilmarnock, 136, referee Thomas intervening at 1:15 of Round Two in a scheduled six twos when Walker had been decked.

Robert Wright, 141¼, Dudley, stopped Martin Campbell, Wishaw, 140¼, referee O'Connor calling a halt at 1:40 of Round Five in a scheduled six twos after Campbell had been down twice.

After five years' inactivity Wayne Hawkins, 177½, Wolverhampton, did well to outpoint Joe Frater, 178, over six twos, scoreline 59½-58.

Debutant Richard Carter, 167, Wolverhampton, outpointed Tony Behan, 168, Birmingham, referee Thomas scoring 59½-58½ after six twos.
(9-22-88)

▶**STOKE**—European Sporting Club—Michael Armstrong, 122, Manchester, outpointed Darren Weller, 123½, referee Paul Thomas scoring 79½-77½ after eight twos.

Henry Armstrong, 130, Manchester, outpointed Jimmy Vincent, 132¼, Birmingham, scoreline 59½-58½ after six twos.

Peter Elliot, 162½, Burton, confirmed a previous win by outpointing Dave Mowbray, 163, Alfreton, referee Thomas casting 60-58 after six twos.

Darren Mount, 140, Sheffield, outpointed Michael Oliver, 141, Wales, referee Thomas's card showing 59½-59 after six twos. It was Oliver's first defeat.

The fans loved the show, and nobbins came in after the Armstrong-Weller fight and after the Mount-Oliver contest.
(9-20-88)

▶**LEICESTER**—Leicester Grand Sporting Club—Gypsy Johnny Fury, Haslingden, outpointed Abner Blackstock, who came in as a substitute, referee John Keane scoring 79-78 after eight. The weights of these two heavyweights were not announced.

Also over eight twos, Gerry Beard, 150, former Midlands Area lightweight champion, beat Frank Harrington, 148, who retired at the end of Round Six with a cut by the left eye. Referee Keane.

Ricky Maxwell, 144, Nottingham, outpointed Finn McCool, 138, Leeds, referee Keane scoring 60-57½ after six twos.

In a clash of debutants Eddie Thomas, 142, Nottingham, stopped Andy Sweeney, 135, the bout being stopped at 1:38 of Round Five in a scheduled six twos when he was cut by the right eye.
(9-26-88)

▶**BRADFORD**—Yorkshire Executive Sporting Club—Mark Kelly, 138, Doncaster, outpointed George Baigrie, 138, Edinburgh, referee Brian Hogg scoring 79½-76½ after eight twos.

Dean Brumhald, 138, Doncaster, drew with Dave Croft, 137, over four. Referee Hogg.

Steve Garber, 224, Bradford, stopped debutant Gifford Shillingford, 216, Sheffield, referee Keith Garner not bothering to count as Shillingford was floored with a right hand after looking ahead at 1:09 of Round Four in a scheduled six twos.

John Townsley, Kirkcaldy, 136, stopped Paul Wallis, 134¼, Sheffield, referee Garner intervening at 1:04 of Round Four in a scheduled six twos after Wallis had been down twice.
(9-26-88)

▶**NEWCASTLE**—Premier Sporting Club—Debutant John Davison, 124, Newcastle, outpointed Des Gargano, 120, Manchester, referee Arnold Bryson scoring 80-77 after eight twos.

Inactive for four months, Harry Escott, 136, Sunderland, outpointed Dave Kettlewell, 140, Leeds, referee Bryson casting 60-58½ after six.

Debutant Frank Foster, 132, Newcastle, outpointed Mick Mulcahy, 132, Heywood, referee Gerry Watson scoring 60-58 after six twos.

Yet another clash of debutants, Shaun Kernon, 158, Newcastle, drew with Richie Nelson, 154, Sheffield, over six twos. Referee Watson.

▶**LONDON**—National Sporting Club—Errol McDonald, Nottingham, stopped Jimmy Thornton, Sheffield, who retired at the end of Round Two with an injured right shoulder. Referee Ritchie Davies.

Peter Bradley, 131½, Glasgow, outpointed Tony Foster, 131½, referee Davies casting it 80-77 after eight.

Tony Lawrence, 174, Kings Lynn, outpointed Robert Gomez, 169, Fulham, referee Reg Thompson's card showing 59½-58 after six twos.

Dave Lake, 140, Herne Bay, outpointed Steve Taggart, 142, Birmingham, referee Thompson scoring it 58½-58 after six twos.

Derek Myers, 175½, Penge, beat Kevin Roper, 182, Swansea, who retired at the end of Round One of a scheduled six twos with an injured right eye.
(9-26-88)

▶**BEDFORD**—Corn Exchange—Branko Pavlovic, 176¼, stopped Billy Sim, 177¼, referee Roy Francis intervening in Round Two of a scheduled eight with Sim under pressure and with a swelling by the left eye.

Tony Cloak, 162, Bedford, avenged a previous defeat by stopping Marty Boy Duke, 166, referee Paddy Sower intervening at 0:25 of Round Two in a scheduled six twos when Duke was cut on the temple.

Frenchman Andre Marcel Cleak, 142, living in Swindon, stopped Sean Conn, 152, Manchester, referee Sower calling a halt at 0:50 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos after Conn had been down and was under pressure.

John Naylor, 129¾, Liverpool, easily outpointed veteran Kid Sumaila, Ghana, 132, referee Francis casting it 80-76½ after eight.

Erwin Edwards, 136, Clapham, outpointed Mark Jackson, 139, Leeds, referee Sower scoring it 59½-57½ after six twos.

Dave Lawrence, 179, Norwich, stopped Andrew Braveo, 180, Manchester, referee Sower calling a halt at 1:58 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos after Braveo had been down.
(9-26-88)

▶**LONDON**—Picketts Lock Leisure Centre—Errol Christie, 164¼, Lewisham, stopped Joe McKenzie, 165½, Newport, referee Dave Parris intervening at 0:55 of Round Three after McKenzie had been down twice.

Mike Durvan, 143, Penge, outpointed Puerto Rican Juan Arroyo, 142, referee Parris scoring it 79-77½ after eight.

Jaime Polo, Colombia, 125½, outpointed Stanley Mathee, 125, South Africa, referee Parris casting 78½-77½ after eight.

Tony Borg, 139½, Cardiff, stopped B.F. Williams, Watford, 139¼, referee Jack Snipe calling a halt at 1:24 of Round Seven of a scheduled eight twos after Williams was cut by the left eye and under considerable pressure.

Scott Durham, 129, Pontypridd, outpointed Mike Close, 131, Monkstown, referee Snipe scoring it 60-57½ after six twos.

Eugene Maloney, 127½, Bow, drew with Miguel Matthews, 126, Swansea Valley, over six twos. Referee Snipe.

David Postane, 141, South Africa, outpointed Andy Morgan, 143¾, Port Talbot, referee Snipe casting it 59½-58 after six twos.
(9-28-88)

▶**SOLIHULL**—Midlands Sporting Club—Colin Lynch, 125¼, Coventry, outpointed Derek Amory, 126, referee John Coyle scoring 98½-97 over 10.

Irish light middleweight champion Terry Magee, 157½, outpointed Wally Swift, 155, referee Jim Pridding casting 79-78 after eight.

Midlands Area welterweight champion Del Bryan, 152, outpointed Ossie Maddix, 150¼, Manchester, referee Coyle scoring 79-77½ after eight.

Tony Swift, 140, kept his unbeaten certificate by drawing with Kevin Plant, 140½, over eight. Referee Pridding.

Glyn Rhodes, 141, Sheffield, drew with Sugar Gibiliru, Liverpool, 141, over eight twos. Referee Pridding.
(9-28-88)

▶**SUNDERLAND**—Crowtree Leisure Centre—British bantamweight champion Billy Hardy stopped former Mexican flyweight champion Jose Gallegos, referee Fred Potter intervening with two seconds to go in Round Four of a scheduled eight after Gallegos had been down twice.

John Davison, 125½, Newcastle, confirmed a previous win by stopping Des Gargano, 122½, Manchester, referee Arnold Bryson scoring 80-76 after eight twos.

Frankie Foster, 132, Newcastle, outpointed Paul Shedzoy, 130, Sheffield, referee Bryson casting 60-58 after six twos.

In a clash of debutants, Mark Jay, 148½, outpointed Tony Farrell, 147, Manchester, referee Potter scoring 59½-58 after six twos.

James Hunter, 135¾, Middlesbrough, kayoed debutant Tommy Lamont, 135¾, Sunderland, at 1:28 of Round Four. Referee Bryson.

Skip Jackson, 155½, Leeds, stopped debutant Mickey Duncan, 153, Newcastle, referee Potter calling a halt at 1:00 of Round Three after Duncan had been floored.

Gary McCrory, 208, Annfield Plain, brother of Commonwealth cruiserweight champion Glenn McCrory, outpointed David Jules, 234, Doncaster, over six twos. Referee Bryson.
(9-29-88)

▶**STAFFORD**—Coliseum—Brian Cullen, 138, Dublin, outpointed Andy Pybus, 138, referee Paul Thomas scoring it 78½-77½ after eight.

Peter Gabbitus, 129½, kayoed Phil Langley, 130, Birmingham, at 1:36 of Round Two in a scheduled six twos. Ref Thomas.

Inactive for a year, Noel Rafferty, 146½, stopped debutant Darren Powell, 147, Walsall, triallist referee Harry Watson intervening with two seconds remaining of Round Four with Powell under pressure.

Andrew Robinson, 127, Birmingham, outpointed Darrell Pettit, 126, Alfreton, referee Thomas casting it 59½-58½ after six.
(9-29-88)

▶**BASILDON**—Festival Hall—Mark Reefer, 132½, kayoed Fernando Blanco, 137, Belgium, at 2:23 of Round One in a scheduled eight. Referee Ritchie Davies.

Brian Nickles, 139, Northolt, kayoed Joey Joynson, 137, Liverpool, in Round Three with a right hand. Referee Jack Snipe.

Debutant Jimmy Clarke, 126, Chadwell Heath, kayoed Alan Roberts, 137, Neath, at 0:36 of Round One with a left to the body. Referee Davies.

Another debutant, Darren Russell, 129½, Loughton, stopped Chris Cooper, 131, Torquay, referee Snipe intervening in Round Three when Cooper was cut by the left eye.

In a clash of first-timers Terry Collins, 130, outpointed Miguel Matthews, Wales, 128, over six twos.
(9-21-88)

▶**PETERBOROUGH**—Wirrina Stadium—David Pierre, Peterborough, 139, beat George Jones, 135, Telford, who was disqualified at 0:20 of Round Five in a scheduled eight twos by referee Ritchie Davies.

Nigel Crook, 119, Chorley, stopped Mark Goult, 117, Wisbech, referee Davis calling a halt at 1:32 of Round Six after Goult had been down.

Graeme Griffin, 147, Corby, stopped Dave Kettlewell, 142, Peterborough, the intervention coming at 1:40 of Round One with Dave under pressure.

Nigel Leggett, 140, Peterborough, drew with Mike Mulcahy, Heywood, 131, over six twos.
(10-2-88)

▶**DUDLEY**—Town Hall—Kid Milo, 159½, stopped Ronnie Campbell, 142, Dudley, referee Coyle calling a halt

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at 1:05 of Round Six after Campbell had been floored twice.

Davey Robb, 141, Telford, confirmed a previous win by outpointing Steve Phillips, referee Jim Pridding casting it 79-78 after eight.

Wayne Timmins, 149, Wolverhampton, outpointed Noel Rafferty, 148, Coventry, referee Pridding scoring it 60-57½ after six twos.

Debutant Dean Hiscox, 135, Dudley, outpointed Dave Croft, 137, Doncaster, referee Pridding scoring 59-58½ after six.

Debutant Matthew Jones, 153, outpointed Keith Scott, 154, Birmingham, over six twos.
(10-6-88)

▶**GLASGOW**—Edmiston Club—Pat Barrett, 149, Manchester, stopped Dave Haggarty, 144½, Paisley, referee Billy Rafferty intervening at 0:42 of Round Seven in a scheduled eight twos when Haggarty was cut on the head.

Sean Heron, 161, Glasgow, outpointed Winston Burnett, 167, Cardiff, referee Len Mullen casting it 79-78 after eight twos.

Tony Dore, 130, Irving, outpointed Neil Leggett, 133, Peterborough, referee Rafferty scoring 59½-57½ after six twos.

Paul Dolan, 152, Glasgow, outpointed Eddie Collins, 154, Peterborough, referee Mullen's card showing 60-57 after six twos.

Debutant James Wray Harkin, 170, Glasgow, outpointed Tony Lawrence, 170, Kings Lynn, referee Mullen casting 40-38½ after four twos.
(10-10-88)

▶**MANCHESTER**—400 Club—Gerry McBride, 127, drew with Mike Whalley, 127, over eight. Referee Mickey Vann.

Ricky Maxwell, 147, Nottingham, outpointed Ricky Nelson, 148, Sheffield, scoreline 59-58½ after six.

Tony Smith, 177, Burnley, outpointed Gordon Stobie, 119, Harlington, referee Nick Kennedy casting 59-58½ after six.

Paul Hendricks, 156, Manchester, outpointed Darren Pilling, 158, Burnley, referee Kennedy scoring 59½-58 after six.
(10-6-88)

▶**GILLINGHAM**—Black Lion Centre—Ian John-Lewis, 148½, Gillingham, stopped Paul Seddon, 147, Bedworth, referee Roy Francis, calling a halt at 1:20 of Round Four in a scheduled six with Seddon under pressure.

Mark Howell, 154, Nottingham, outpointed Newton Barnett, 156, Brixton, referee Francis scoring 79½-77½ after eight.

Mike (brother of Mark) Howell, 140, Nottingham, stopped Mark Pellat, 135¼, Strood, referee Jack Snipe intervening at 1:53 of Round One in a scheduled six twos after Pellat had been down.

Danny Porter, 120, Hitchin, stopped Gordon Shaw, 115½, Glasgow, referee Snipe stepping in at only 38 seconds of Round One in a scheduled six twos after Shaw had been floored.

Wull Strike, 125, Glasgow, outpointed Stuart Fishermac, 127½, referee Snipe casting 40-39 after four.
(9-30-88)

▶**NOTTINGHAM**—Albany Hotel—John Davison, 125, Newcastle, stopped Gary Maxwell, Nottingham, referee Jim Pridding intervening at 1:55 of Round One in a scheduled eight twos after Maxwell had been floored.

Michael Justin, 151, Nottingham, beat Lloyd Lee, 150, Harlesden, referee Pridding calling a halt at 1:50 of Round Two in a scheduled eight twos when Lee was cut by the left eye.

Adrian Din, 152, Nottingham, outpointed Barry French, 155, Newcastle, referee Pridding casting 59-58½ after six.

Barry Messam, 144½, outpointed Tony Farrell, Manchester, referee Pridding scoring 59-58½ after six twos.
(10-10-88)

▶**EDGBASTON**—Tower Ballroom—Tony Willis, 144, Liverpool, returned after nine months' inactivity to stop substitute Kelvin Mortimer, 145½, Trebanog, referee Paul Thomas intervening at 0:57 of Round Four in a scheduled eight with Mortimer under pressure.

Midlands Area super featherweight champion Hugh Forde, 132½, stopped Wayne Weekes, 133, Forest Hill, referee Thomas calling a halt at 2:58 of Round Seven in a scheduled eight with Weekes under pressure. Weekes was down in Round Three.

Shane Silvester, 119, West Bromwich, outpointed Des Gargano, 118½, Manchester, referee Brian Arnott casting it 79½-78 after eight twos. Some boos greeted this verdict.

Overcoming an eye injury, Antonio Fernandez, 155, Birmingham, outpointed Chris Richards, 156, Nottingham, referee Thomas scoring it 59½-58½ after six twos.

Michael Oliver, 143¾, Hengoed, stopped James Lawlor, 144, referee Arnott stepping in at 1:49 of Round Four in a scheduled six twos after Lawlor had been under pressure. In a previous meeting the result was a draw.
(10-10-88)

▶**MANCHESTER**—Anglo American Sporting Club—After the scheduled six rounds referee Brian Anderson lifted the arm of Peter Elliot, 170½, in victory. The only snag was that former British middleweight champion Anderson was a triallist referee and was not supposed to give the decision. That should have come from referee Mickey Vann, seated outside the ring. And to make matters worse, Mickey gave the verdict to Sean Stringfellow, 168, by 59½-58½.

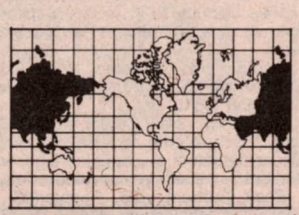
There was even more confusion when a section of the crowd showed they thought Brian's verdict was the right one. However, Mickey's scorecard was the official one, and it stood.

Ian Midwood-Tate, 152, beat G.L. Booth, 153¾, who was retired at the end of Round Three with a cut lip. Referee Vann.

Henry Armstrong, 135½, outpointed Jimmy Vincent, 131½, referee Vann (outside the ring) scoring it 59-58½ after six. Triallist referee Anderson controlled the bout.

Graham Burton, 156, Sheffield, stopped Frank Mobbs, 156, Hull, referee Vann intervening at 0:17 of Round Three with Mobbs under pressure.
(10-10-88)

RON OLVER



THE ORIENT

JAPAN

▶**OSAKA**—Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium—**Mark (Brooks) Horikoshi**, Japanese junior featherweight champ, 122, kept his national title for the sixth time by stopping Atsushi Oyakawa, 121, at 1:58 of the fourth session of a scheduled 10. Mark, a black American living in Japan, is rated seventh by the WBA and WBC. He bettered his log to 17-1 with 13 kayoes. He battered the taller challenger almost at will and referee Ryoji Kashiwagi called a halt. Oyakawa fell to 7-2 with four knockouts. Despite his defeat Atsushi showed his talents with good straight punches.

Iwao Otomo, Japanese lightweight champ, 135, fought back hard and finished Takehito Nakano, 134½, at 1:35 of the fourth session in a scheduled 10. Otomo registered his eighth defense. Otomo's busy attacks weakened the early starter, flooring him twice before the stoppage. Otomo is 18-2-2 with 16 kayoes. Nakano impaired to 7-6 with three knockouts. Iliroshi Matsumoto refereed.

Katsumi Komiyama, the WBA's eighth-ranked junior flyweight, 108, was held to a split draw by fast Filipino lefty Roger de Rama, also 108, in 10. Scoring: referee Inukai 98-97 for Rama, judge Matsumoto 98-96 for Komiyama, and judge Yasuda 97-97. *The Ring* saw the affair 98-96 for Komiyama by evaluating his aggressiveness. Komiyama is 13-2-5 with three kayoes. Rama, the Filipino top contender, is 22-3-2 with four KOs.

Originally, three national title bouts were scheduled on this card, but Japanese junior middleweight champ Nobuyuki Tabata failed to apppear due to his sudden stomachache after passing the morning weigh-in. His defense against Eiju Otake was cancelled, and Tabata relinquished his title to show his faithfulness.

Promoter: Shin-Nippon Osaka Promotions.

Attendance: 3,650.
(10-6-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Former OPBF junior middleweight champ Carlos Elliot, 153, dropped Filipino Lex Cabubas, 150, thrice and stopped him at 2:34 of the second round in a scheduled 10. It was Carlos' first appearance since he forfeited his title to Francisco Lisboa via an upset decision in Indonesia last July. Carlos is 19-2 with 17 knockouts. Lex fell to 20-6-2 with just three kayoes. Ukrit Sarasas refereed.

Jun Calora, a tough Filipino, 112½, halted Takayuki Uemura, a previously unbeaten prospect, 115, at 0:25 of the ninth session in a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Hachinohe Teiken Promotions.

Attendance: 1,500.
(10-6-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Unbeaten Shigeru Okabe, the JBC's #6 bantamweight, 118, showed his faster footwork and jabs and won a close but unanimous decision over Susumu Uchida, 117½, in six.

Kenji Sato, 126, kayoed Hiroshi Yamada, 124¾, at 1:30 of the second session of a scheduled six.

Hiroaki Yokota, 122, decked a TKO win over Naoki Tsuchiya, 121½, at 2:57 of the fifth session of a scheduled six.

Keizo Takabori, 112, stopped Takanori Shinohara, 112, at 2:16 of the fifth round in a scheduled six.

Takashi Saito, 134¼, unanimously decisioned Masato Takada, 133¾, in six.

Toshinari Miyasato, 107¼, won over Hisashi Nakatomi, 107¼, in six.

Promoter: All Japan Managers Union.

Attendance: 1,900.
(10-12-88)

▶**KIKUCHI, KUMAMOTO**—Imported Chinese Rocky Lim, 106, won a near shutout decision (100-95, 100-97 and 99-96) over Norikazu Kawana, 106¼, in 10. Kazumasa Kuwata refereed.
(10-13-88)

▶**OSAKA**—Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium—On the Estrada/Muguruma undercard (see Feb. '89 issue), Filipino Bert Pucay, 125, demolished Takeo Takahashi, 123¾, at 1:13 of the second session. It was Pucay's first appearance here. His furious attacks won the praise of the crowd.

Promoter: Osaka Teiken Promotions.

Attendance: 4,600.
(10-16-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Kenji Matsumura, 112, survived critical moments and retained his OPBF flyweight title via a fine kayo over Aldo Kawamata, 111, at 2:58 of the second round in a scheduled 12. Matsumura, the WBA's fifth-ranked contender, revealed his loose defense, but retaliated with a stunning uppercut and reckless combinations. Matasumura is 9-2 with five kayoes. Kawamata, a stylist boxer, fell to 15-2 with five knockouts.

Noboru Godai, formerly fighting as Toshiyuki Tanaka, 134¼, embalmed Yasuyuki Noguchi, 134¼, at 1:19 of the seventh round in a scheduled eight. Godai is 22-4-2 with eight kayoes.

Eung-Hwang Moon, a Korean at 130, won a unanimous nod over ex-Japanese champ Fudai Michigami, 130, in 10.
(10-17-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Having been stopped by Jung-Koo Chang in his quest for the WBC light flyweight title last June, **Hideyuki Ohashi**, 105, engaged in a comeback bout and iced Filipino Romy Ceniza, 105, with a wicked body shot at 2:29 of the third round in a scheduled 10. Ohashi is 9-3 with five kayoes. Kazunobu Asao refereed.

Yoshihiro Yamamoto, 140, decisioned Filipino Al Llanita, 138, in 10. Takeshi Shimakawa refereed.

Promoter: Yonekura Promotions.

Attendance: 2,150.
(10-18-88)

▶**OSAKA**—Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium—Having failed to win the national featherweight title from Mitsuru Sugiya twice, hard-punching lefty Kenji Iizumi, 134, moved up to the junior lightweight class and polished off Hidemitsu Hongo, 133, at 2:47 of the first round in a scheduled 10. Iizumi exploded his vaunted southpaw lefts and dropped the less experienced opponent thrice for an automatic stoppage. The winner is 17-3 with 14 kayoes. Hongo, the JHC's #9 junior lightie, is 6-3 with two knockouts. Ryoji Kashiwagi refereed.

Attendance: 800.
(10-21-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Mitsuru Sugiya, the WBA's sixth-ranked featherweight, 126, floored Masakatsu Sakuma, 124¾, with a three-punch combination in the sixth, but hit the deck from a roundhouse right in the temple in Round Nine. Sugiya then came back to flatten Sakuma at 2:00 of the 10th and final round. It was Sugiya's fifth defense and was ballyhooed as a tune-up go before his crack at the world throne now held by **Antonio Esparragoza**. Despite onesided proceedings

Sakuma's retaliations in the ninth seemingly dropped Sugiya's reputations. Mitsuru, however, landed a coup-de-grace to the button, sending him to dreamland with one-minute remaining in the fight. The glass-jawed puncher Sugiya is 28-3 with 21 knockouts. Sakuma, three years his senior at 27, is 11-18-5 with six kayoes. Ken Morita refereed.

In a companion title go, Koheita Tanaka, 118, showed his tricky infighting, befuddled ex-champ Mitsuo Imazato, also 118, and won a unanimous decision (98-95, 97-94 and 98-94) in 10. Tanaka had acquired the vacant national throne by scoring an upset decision over Crasher Miura last July. Though underevaluated, Tanaka succeeded in his first defense against the veteran campaigner. Tanaka, 23, is 13-6-2 with five knockouts. Imazato, 27, impaired to 22-14-1 with 13 kayoes. The loser's manager, Fighting Harada, announced Imazato would hang up the gloves for good.

Promoters: Kyoei & Shinwa Kawakami Promotions.
(10-24-88)

▶**KOCHI**—Kochi Municipal Gymnasium—Yosuke Matsuoka, the Japanese Commission's #2 flyweight, 112, defeated Filipino Cesar Perez, 112, by a unanimous decision (100-93, 99-93 and 98-93) in 10. Matsuoka, who drew with OPBF flyweight champ Kenji Matsumura months ago, is 16-4-2 with five knockouts. Perez fell to 14-7-2 with four kayoes.

Joe Apurado, another Filipino boy, 126, battered Sakamoto, 129¼, and pummeled him into submission at 1:52 of the seventh round in a scheduled eight.

Promoter: Kuroshio Boxing Club.

Attendance: 2,000.
(10-31-88)

Naoto Takahashi (right) connects with a right to the jaw of Filipino Little Bangoyan en route to a unanimous 10-round decision in Tokyo.

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—In a good matchup of Japanese and Filipino top junior featherweight contenders, Naoto Takahashi, 121½, overcame stinging lefts of Little Bangoyan, 121½, scored well with fast one-two combinations and took a unanimous decision in 10. Ex-Filipino champ Bangoyan displayed sharp jabs in early rounds, but Takahashi took the leadoff with his solid rights to the face. Scoring: referee Hiroyuki Tezaki 99-96, judge Takeo Ugo 100-95 and judge Kazunobu Asao 100-94, all for the Japanese prospect. Naoto, 20, raised his log to 15-2 with 11 knockouts. Little, 27, fell to 36-14-3-INC with 13 kayoes. It was a good fight.

Promoter: Abe Promotions.

Attendance: 2,500.
(11-3-88)

▶**OSAKA**—Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium—Yoshitatsu Nakazato, the JBC's #5 junior lightie, 135, showed a lackluster performance, but was awarded a majority decision (96-95, 98-97 and 97-97) over Koki Higaashi, a veteran swinger, also 135, in 10. Nakazato is 17-3-1 with four knockouts. Higashi is 10-14-1 with just a kayo.

Yukio Nakatani, 114, floored Toshihiko Tsujino, also 114, in the third session and made him a bloody mess, halting him at 0:21 of the seventh of a scheduled eight. He is 8-1, all wins by KO.

Promoter: Ozeki Maki Promotions.

Attendance: 680.
(11-4-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Japanese junior bantamweight champ Shunichi Nakajima, 116, had a tough time but solved a puzzling lefty style of Filipino Rolando Protacio, 115½, winning a unanimous decision (100-96, 100-95 and 99-95) in 10. Takeshi Shimakawa refereed. Nakajima, the WBC's #12 super flyweight, is 17-4 with 10 knockouts.

Shinji Sugazaki, 127½, knocked out Jun Sato, also 127½, at 2:16 of the fifth round in a supporting 10.

Promoter: Yonekura Promotions.

Attendance: 2,100.
(11-8-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—The A-Class Prize tourney came to an end with three finals. The tournaments are annually held with entries of the JBC's ranked contenders. The winners in respective classes are entitled to challenge national rulers in the Carnival of Champions.

Junior lightweight: Former national champ Yoshimitsu Azato, 130, suffered too many southpaw lefts and dropped a unanimous decision to Tiger (Ari) Asakura, 130, in eight.

Azato was fading fast and was unable to avert Leopard's sharp lefts and rights. Azato fell to 22-8-1 with 13 kayoes. Asakura, an imported Filipino, scored his fifth win in six bouts here.

Junior featherweight: Keiichi Ozaki, a busy puncher, 121½, onesidedly whipped Lancer Nakamura, 122, taking a nearly shutout verdict in eight. Ozaki is 14-12-1 with two kayoes. Nakamura fell to 12-7-1 with a kayo.

Flyweight: Toshio Aikawa, the JBC's #4 contender, 112, won a unanimous decision over Osamu Sasaki, a fast-rising prospect, also 112, in eight. Sasaki's winning streak was stopped at nine due to Aikawa's persistent attacks. Aikawa is 8-6-1 with four kayoes. Sasaki impaired to 12-2 with six knockouts.

In a supporting eight, Lion (Ari) Maeda, 122, and Crasher Miura, 121½, fought to a draw in eight.

Promoters: Kokusai, Kaneko & Victory Promotions.
(10-14-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

THAILAND

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Lert J. Virach, a newcomer out of Lipovitan-D Gym, 119, was knocked out by Nugrob S. Phayathai, the TBC's # junior bantie, also 119, in the sixth and final round.
(9-2-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Yingyai Petchviharn, the Thai Commission's second-ranked junior featherweight, 129, caught Prasert Sithprommes, 128, and finished him in the fifth round of a scheduled six. It was the loser's pro debut.
(9-3-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Chainarong Issorrapah, 117, won a unanimous nod over Sakdarun Kiatrangsan, 117, in six.
(9-7-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Pornchal Boonthavee, the TBC's #6 mini-flyweight, 109, disposed of Vinai Kiatsakda, 110, in the second session of a scheduled six.
(9-8-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Petchainat Donjadee, 112, lost his national flyweight title as Champ Kiatpetch, 112, floored him thrice in the fourth round and scored a TKO win in a scheduled 10. The newly crowned Kiatpetch is 10-1 with nine kayoes.
(9-11-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Sangngern Looksuriya, 111, hit the deck in the first round and dropped a unanimous nod to Thngthep Patchsriracha, 111, in six.
(9-16-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Tantawan Wongvianyai, 118, unanimously decisioned Kumpanart Prapasmorter, 119, in six.
(9-20-88)

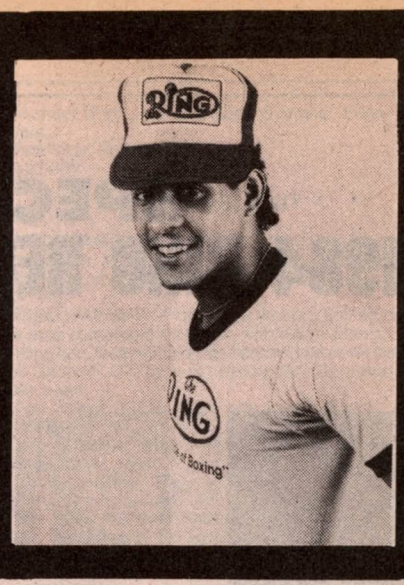
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Sombat Ausamphan, the TBC's #2 bantie, sent Lauchai Kiatsonthaya, 118½, to dreamland in the fourth round of a scheduled six.
(9-21-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Fahlun Lookmingkwan, the Thai second-ranked mini-flyweight, 109, halted Yala P. Paointara, also 109, in the second session of a scheduled six.
(9-22-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Mai Thomburifarm, 111, easily polished off Petchlampang Superdon, 111, in the second round of a scheduled six.
(9-24-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Pornchai Boonthavee, 110, knocked out Charaldech Caryboy, 111½, in the sixth and final session.
(9-28-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Palangnoom S.



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Prinya, 108, suffered a bad knockout at the hand of Kaj Charbandit, also 108, in the fourth round of a scheduled six.
(9-27-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Chana P. Paointara, 106, halted Visanuchai Kiatsonthaya, 106, in the third round of a scheduled six. Visanuchai, a conqueror of the WBA's contender Trang T. Boonlert, had suffered a kayo loss to Pretty Boy Lucas in the Philippines just 24 days before.
(9-28-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Kongnapha Chor Vikool, the TBC's third-ranked junior featherweight, 123, floored Petchthai Premcharoen, 122, but went down in the first round and the latter landed more punches in following rounds to win a decision. Petchthai was formerly an amateur boxer.
(9-29-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Asawin S. Dusit, the WBC's #26 strawweight, needed just 25 seconds to demolish Pudpad Sithchula, 110, in the first round of a scheduled six. Asawin's left shot was a haymaker.
(9-30-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

PAN PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA

▶**PRESTON**—Town Hall—Scott Brouwer, 122, became the junior featherweight champion of Australia when he halted defending champion Richard Reilly, 121¼, in Round Nine of a 12-rounder.

Referee Chris Anderson stopped the contest as Reilly had reached the end of his tether. It had been a good battle, with Brouwer down in Round Two, Reilly in Round Nine.

The main support, scheduled for 10, featured Rodney Carr, 168, Australia, and Rocky Aumatangi, 164¾, New Zealand, for the Trans Tasman super middleweight title. Now there is a new one! Trans Tasman is understandable as the Tasman Sea separates the two countries, but the championship between the two is Australasian as distinct from Australian, which is this country only. Carr stopped Aumatangi in Round Four, so now is the holder of a new title.

I'm afraid I find titles being cheapened by such billings. A perfect example was the Leonard/Lalonde fight, which violated all the rules governing titles.

Two six-rounders supported.

Adrian Riley, 152¼, outpointed Guy Murdoch, 160.

Darren Miller, 132¾, outpointed Gary Schroder, 139¼.

Promoter: Lee Thomas.
(9-18-88)

▶**MELBOURNE**—Dallas Brookes Hall—Aussie **Lester Ellis**, 137¾, held his Commonwealth junior welterweight title with a four-round stoppage of Scot Robert Harkin, 138¼, in a bout billed for 12 rounds.

The Scot won the first two rounds, then Ellis took over, dropping Harkin twice in the third and twice in the fourth at which point referee Malcolm Bulner rescued the loser.

In an eight, Rodney Carr, 166½, halted Jale Fotu, 170, in two.

In another eight, Niko Degei, fat at 243½, outpointed Marc Ecimovic, fat at 230¼.

Over six, Craig Trotter, 154½, outpointed Anthony Naidu, 151½.

Adrian Riley, 151½, outpointed Mick Russell, 154½, in six.

Promoter: Mainfreight Promotions/Keith Ellis.
(10-13-88)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

▶**ADELAIDE**—Apollo Stadium—Troy Waters, 153¼, retained his Commonwealth junior middleweight title in easy fashion over Gilbert Josamu, 152, Zimbabwe.

A right uppercut, followed by a right to the jaw, decked Josamu. A right to the jaw decked him a second time and referee Malcolm Bulner counted him out—all in Round One.

Troy's brother, Dean, heavyweight champion of Australia, was to have defended against Kevin Barry, but Dean injured his hand. Dean, who was on bail on a charge of conspiracy to murder, was charged with murder Oct. 31.

Barry, 203, met August Tanuvasa, 227½, New Zealand, for Tanuvasa's Australasian title. Billed for 12, it ended in Round Seven when Tanuvasa, who accepted the fight on very short notice, ran out of gas after a good match.

In a 10-round non-title tilt, Guy Waters, holder of the Australian light heavy crown, outpointed Randy Smith, 175½, United States, in a dull contest. Waters, 176½, took scores of 97-93 from Bulner, 98-93 from Gus Mercurio and 100-93 from Don Marks. Jim Boland refereed.

Sailasa Lesi, 162½, outpointed Joe Knight, 161, over eight. Both are Fijians, though Knight is Australia-based.

Rocky Pirrottina, 141, outpointed Tony Marrette, 139¼, over six.

Promoter: Marty Rhone.
(10-7-88)

NEW SOUTH WALES

▶**MT. PRICHARD**—Community Club—Simon Maidment, 134¾, outpointed Mario Crisafulli, 136, over 10 in what judge Don Marks called Fight of the Year.

Marks scored 96-95, Maidment, Mick Bennetto scored 97-95, Maidment, while judge Charlie Lucas called it 96-95 Crisafulli.

Vito Gaudioso, 167, drew with Robert Ngwakpa, 159½, over eight.

Joe Knight, 161, knocked out Rocky Restuccia, 164¾, in the fifth round of a scheduled six to register his first win in 23 contests. A landmark!

Terry Roberts, 149½, outpointed Rodney Simpson, 144½, over six.

Darren Mees, 161½, KO'd Brad Ure, 160½, in the first of a scheduled six.

Victor Wasley, 139, knocked out Mark Poor, 131¼, in the final round of their scheduled four.

Referee: Trevor Christian.

Promoter: Frank Axisa.
(9-21-88)

▶**PARRAMATTA**—Leagues Club—**Renato Cornett**, 130, defeated **Geron Porras**, 129½, Philippines on points at the end of Round Five.

Cornett received a cut eye from an accidental head clash in Round Two. The cut worsened and at the end of Round Five referee John Wright called the doctor, who advised the stoppage. Cornett was way ahead, 50-42 (twice) and 50-45.

Over eight, Graham Jeffery, 143¼, drew with Errol Oluklu, 139¾.

Ron Jeffs, 154, outpointed Joe Knight, 159, over six.

Michael King, 148¼, KO'd Brendon Foley, 141½, in the first of a scheduled four.

Promoter: Wayne Hunt.

▶**CARDIFF**—Workers Club—Craig Pevy, 126, KO'd Peter Warren, 123¼, in the eighth round for the vacant NSW state featherweight title. Referee Billy Males stopped the contest to save Warren after a good fight.

Only two fours supported.

Wayne Thomas, 167½, stopped Jason Maguire, 168¼, in Round One, cut eye.

Terry Luppi, 143¼, KO'd Steve Williams, 144¼, in one.

Promoter: Roger McVey.
(9-27-88)

▶**DAPTO**—Leagues Club—Vito Gaudioso, 157¾, outpointed Darren Mees, 158¾, in the 10-round main.

It was a very good fight, with scores of 96-95 by Charlie Lucas, 99-95 by Mick Dunningham and 99-96 by Michael Clarke. Ref John Cauchi.

In the main support, Apollo Sweet, 190½, who holds the Australian cruiserweight title, halted Rudy Darno, 218½, in Round Eight. Sweet was on top all the way, finally decking Darno for the count administered by Cauchi.

Mark Moran, 190, KO'd Wally Keaster, 208½, in the final round of a six, Charlie Lucas doing the counting.

Victor Wasley, 137¾, outpointed Bill Cowling, 137, in four.

Michael King, 143, and Scott Symons, 150¾, drew in four.

Promoter: Frank Axisa.
(10-21-88)

QUEENSLAND

▶**ROCKHAMPTON**—Only one pro bout on this amateur bill, Rod Price knocking out James Dunleavy in the third of a scheduled six.
(10-1-88)

▶**RUNAWAY BAY**—Hotel—the first pro boxing card in this area comprised six bouts, with Kevin Johnson, 118, holding his Queensland state bantam title as he stopped Neil Garland, 117, on a cut eye in the first round of the main event.

Troy Power, 132¼, drew with Lance Austin, 134½, over eight.

In a six-round war, Bruce Crowe, 140, outpointed Jaimie Tracey, 146½.

Geoff Hemsley, 124½, KO'd Steve Smith, 123½, in the first of a scheduled four.

Two three-rounders featuring local footballers took place, but none of the contestants were weighed in! They appeared to be in the light heavyweight range.

Mike Brady drew with Ross Paris.

Wayne Farley outpointed Brett Mackay.

Promoters: Kevin Martin & Geoff Rowlands.

Attendance: 750 (est.).
(10-29-88)

AUSSIES OVERSEAS

▶**NOUMEA**—Kevin Wagstaff of Australia knocked out Elo Rauga in two. Also on the bill were non-Australians, including Young Haumona with a 10-round decision over Kamisese Vaubula and Sekaraia Ve with an eight-round verdict over Penu Rasmussen.
(10-8-88)

▶**CIREBOB (Indonesia)**—Francisco Lisboa, 155, outpointed Australian Graeme Looker, 146¼, and Ronald Doo, 146¼, Australia, drew with Bongguk Kindy, 146¼, over 10.
(10-15-88)

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APRIL '88: Annual Awards issue featuring Evander Holyfield, Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Mike Tyson, Kelvin Seabrooks, Engels Pedroza and more.

MAY '88: George Foreman, Tyson-Holmes color action, Pancho Villa, D'O'Brian on light punchers, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, Sandy Saddler and more.

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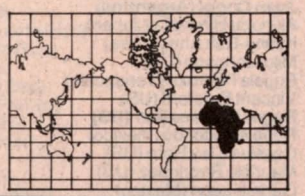
▶**NOTES:** Former welterweight champion of Australia and the British Empire **Darby Brown** died in Sydney October 31 at age 59. He was world rated by *The Ring* in 1956. A boxer-fighter who could—and often did—knock down his opponent with a straight left, Brown began his pro career at age 16. He floored nearly every opponent, but had just 26 KOs in his 63 contests. He is particularly remembered for his three clashes with our popular George Barnes. The first, over 12 rounds, resulted in a points win for Barnes in September, 1955. The second saw Brown win the Australian and Empire titles from Barnes on a 15-round decision in a tremendous fight August 6, 1956. I sat with the late **Nat Fleischer** at ringside for that fight, and Nat later wrote he was thrilled with the fight and right for rating both. On November 12, 1956, Brown was outpointed by Barnes over 15, losing back the titles. He hung up the gloves after losing to Billy Todd in July, 1958. Vale Darby Brown was a good champion and a good man.

RAY MITCHELL



AFRICA

KENYA

▶**NAIROBI**—Modesty Napunyi, former African superbantamweight champion, stopped Korean Seung-Ho Shin in the seventh round.
(9-2-88)

ZAMBIA

▶**LUSAKA**—Proud Kilimanjaro became the new African heavyweight champion by knocking out hometowner Mike Simwelu in the 11th round.

Chisanda Mutti of Zambia knocked out Zimbabwe's Captain Marvel in Round Three of a heavyweight clash.

Enock Ghama, enjoying tremendous home support, KO'd Zimbabwean Jubalani Gompiro in the fifth.

NIGERIA

▶**LAGOS**—National Stadium—**Joe Lasisi**, one of the brightest African hopes for a world title, stopped Ghanian import Joe Allotey in the second round in defense of his African Boxing Confederation light heavyweight title in the Indoor Sports Hall.
(8-26-88)

▶**LAGOS**—Hunter Clay, Nigerian middleweight champion, became the African Boxing Confederation titlist in that weight division by knocking out Beninois Dara Doussou in the third round.

Nigerian Godwin Anyamene became the first ABC super middleweight champion by stopping Ghana's Ray Opaku in the second round.

Collins Iwunze made his pro debut, battering veteran Ezekiel Bolaji for a first-round stoppage.

National welterweight king Collins Omuzaga survived a last-minute knockdown to retain his title by split decision over hard-hitting Femi Jacobs.
(10-28-88)

GHANA

▶**ACCRA**—Holy Gardens—Ghana's Amon Neegyaye knocked out Rastaman Ochomma to win the ABC super flyweight title.

Commonwealth and African flyweight king Nana Yaw Konadu needed just 16 seconds to knock out Nigerian Rufus Adebayo.

Ghanian Christ Ash Kpakpo defeated Nigeria's Bassey Amande in a bantamweight clash when Amande failed to answer the bell for Round Five.
(10-9-88)

TUNDE OGUNNOIKI

SOUTH AFRICA

▶**WELKOM**—Johannes Hoshella, OFS lightweight champion, scored a convincing third-round TKO over Samuel Lisenyane in a scheduled 10.

Returning to the ring after a lengthy layoff, Manuel De Paiva was no match for young Ruben Gosama and was stopped in the fourth round of a lightweight bout.

Attendance: 300 (est.).
(7-30-88)

▶**ODENDAALSRUS**—Aaron Williams scored a fifth-round TKO over **Daniel Thetele** in a featherweight bout.

The bout was Thetele's first following a lengthy layoff. After the referee stopped the fight, Thetele walked to his corner unassisted. But he collapsed as he was about to leave the ring and lapsed into a coma, dying en route to the hospital.

This was a tragic end for a game little fighter. May he rest in peace.

Attendance: 300 (est.).
(8-13-88)

▶**DURBAN**—Red Cross Hall—Gideon Hlongwa retained the Natal heavyweight title with a 10-round decision over Weaver Qwaba.

This was a bloody and grueling bout with toe-to-toe action throughout.

Douglas Sibiya scored a TKO in the fifth round over Eric Ngomezulu in a light heavyweight clash. Sibiya made hard work of beating a rather poor opponent.

Promoter: Wayne Wesley-Smith.

Attendance: 600 (est.).
(9-5-88)

▶**JOHANNESBURG**—Portoguese Hall—Grant Messias, 135, scored a clear-cut eight-round decision over American Bryan "Choirboy" Brown, also 135.

The baby-faced American came storming out in the first round, throwing plenty of leather. Throughout, Brown used foul tactics, butting, holding, laying on and even biting the young South African in an attempt to unsettle him.

But Brown began to tire in the sixth round, and Messias emerged a clear winner.

Promoter: Rodney Berman/Golden Gloves.

Attendance: 1,200 (est.).
(9-7-88)

▶**RIVERLEA**—Community Centre Hall—Aaron Kabi, 140, won the Transvaal junior welterweight title in sensational style when he stopped slow-moving Jeffrey Mankune, 140, at 1:25 of the first round.

This was sweet revenge for Kabi, who lost a close decision to Mankune a year ago.

Kabi's record is 12-1-1, with Mankune dropping to 18-5-2.

Promoter: Sam Monane/Alexandra Promotions.

Attendance: 300 (est.).
(9-11-88)

▶**MDANTSANE**—Vuyani Bungu defended his Cape junior featherweight title for the first time, stopping Velile Klaas in the third round.

Bungu took charge from the opening bell, completely outclassing his challenger until the towel was thrown in.

One-time prospect Nceba Dladla was stopped in five rounds by Billy Mkenkhcele in the bantamweight class.
(9-9-88)

▶**ELDORADO PARK**—Don Mateman Hall—Aladin Stevens, 134, became the South African lightweight champion for the second time when he scored a unanimous 12-round decision over Nika Khumalo, 135.

Khumalo battled to make the weight and was only intent on survival. His weakened condition and damaged right hand proved his undoing.

Stevens' record goes to 33-5-3, while Khumalo dropped to 24-3-2.

Attendance: 1,000 (est.).
(9-18-88)

▶**JOHANNESBURG**—Standard Bank Arena—South African heavyweight champion **Pierre Coetzer**, 215, scored a one-sided, fourth-round stoppage over Brazilian import Manuel De Almeida, 220.

Coetzer completely outclassed his opponent, who just stood against the ropes absorbing punishment until referee Stanley Christodoulou stepped in to stop the

slaughter at 1:11.

In a disappointing contest, Simon Skosana, 119, scored a unanimous 10-round decision over American Jerome Coffee, 119. Both were over-cautious, making for a dull bout.

In an untidy and mauling six-rounder, Jan Horn, 171, won by decision over Soloman Zuma, 171.

Promoter: M&R Promotions/Mike Segal & Moshe Simantov.

Attendance: 4,500 (est.).
(9-28-88)

RON JACKSON

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IBF/WBA/WBC RATINGS

HEAVYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Mike Tyson (US)	**C**	**C**	**C**
Carl Williams (US)	1	5	3
James Douglas (US)	2	–	5
Frank Bruno (England)	3	1	1
Pinklon Thomas (US)	4	–	–
Trevor Berbick (US)	5	8	8
Orlin Norris (US)	6	7	9
Francesco Damiani (Italy)	7	2	–
Tim Witherspoon (US)	8	–	13
Jose Ribalta (US)	9	4	4
Razor Ruddock (Canada)	10	6	6
Adilson Rodrigues (Brazil)	–	3	2
Tyrell Biggs (US)	–	–	15
Tony Tubbs (US)	–	–	7
Michael Dokes (US)	11	9	10
Alex Stewart (US)	–	10	18

CRUISERWEIGHT/ JR. HEAVYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Evander Holyfield (US)	**C**	**C**	**C**
Patrick Lumumba (Kenya)	1	6	4
Taoufik Balbouli (France)	2	3	3
Alfonso Ratliff (US)	3	–	22
Ralf Rocchigiani (Germany)	4	–	16
Michael Greer (US)	5	5	2
Sammy Reeson (England)	6	1	6
Olian Alexander (US)	7	–	9
Everett Martin (US)	8	4	13
Bert Cooper (US)	9	7	8
Tyrone Booze (US)	10	–	–
Carlos DeLeon (Puerto Rico)	–	2	1
Ossie Ocasio (Puerto Rico)	–	8	–
Glenn McCrory (England)	–	9	5
Robert Daniels (US)	–	10	14
Daniel Netto (Argentina)	–	–	7
Bash Ali (Nigeria)	–	–	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Charles Williams (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Joe Lasisi (Nigeria)	1	2	3
Uriah Grant (US)	2	–	9
Frankie Swindell (US)	3	–	12
Tony Willis (US)	4	1	1
Dennis Andries (England)	5	3	2
Bobby Czyz (US)	6	–	8
Rufino Angulo (France)	7	–	–
Fred Delgado (Puerto Rico)	8	10	–
Willy Featherstone (Canada)	9	9	7
Jorge Salgado (Argentina)	10	–	17
Virgil Hill (US)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Chong-Pal Park (Korea)	–	4	–
Jean-Marie Emebe (France)	–	5	15
Pedro Van Raamsdonk (Nether.)	12	6	21
Ramzi Hassan (US)	–	7	6
Leslie Stewart (Trinidad)	–	8	4
Don Lalonde (Canada)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Alex Blanchard (Holland)	–	–	5
Tom Collins (England)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Graciano Rocchigiani (Germany)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Lindell Holmes (US)	1	1	–
Frank Tate (US)	2	–	–
James Kinchen (US)	3	5	2
Chris Reid (US)	4	4	12
Jeff Harding (Australia)	5	–	5
Nigel Benn (England)	6	–	–
Tarmo Uusivirta (Finland)	7	9	7
Vincent Boulware (US)	8	10	–
Thulani Malinga (South Africa)	9	–	–
Mike Peak (US)	10	–	–
Fulgencio Obelmejias (Venezuela)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Thomas Hearns (US)	–	2	3
Victor Cordova (Panama)	11	3	16
Jay Strickland (US)	–	6	–
Wang-Sup Lee (Korea)	–	7	–
Mark Kaylor (England)	–	8	–
Ray Leonard (US)	–	–	1
Chong-Pal Park (Korea)	–	–	4
In-Chul Baek (Korea)	–	–	6
Juan Roldan (Argentina)	–	–	8
Chris Tiozzo (France)	–	–	9
Carlos Antunes (Brazil)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Michael Nunn (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Frank Winterstein (France)	1	–	8
Mike McCallum (US)	2	2	4
Chris Tiozzo (France)	3	6	–
Herol Graham (England)	4	1	2
Roberto Duran (Panama)	5	3	5
Tony Thornton (US)	6	9	11
Michael Watson (England)	7	–	7
Ron Essett (US)	8	–	22
Mike Tinley (US)	9	–	29
Michael Olajide (Canada)	10	10	3
Sumbu Kalambay (Italy)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Doug DeWitt (Us)	11	4	12
In-Chul Baek (Korea)	–	–	5
Juan Roldan (Argentina)	–	7	–
Robbie Sims (US)	–	8	6
Iran Barkley (US)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Lindell Holmes (US)	–	–	1
Kevin Watts (US)	–	–	9
Frank Tate (US)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT/ SUPER WELTERWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Robert Hines (US)	**C**	**4**	**6**
Troy Waters (Australia)	1	–	11
Darrin Van Horn (US)	2	2	4
Jose Varela (Germany)	3	–	14
Matthew Hilton (Canada)	4	–	–
Lupe Aquino (US)	5	3	2
Terry Norris (US)	6	–	29
Francisco DeJesus (Brazil)	7	–	26
Carlos Santos (Puerto Rico)	8	8	22
Gianfranco Rosi (Italy)	9	6	3
Rene Jacquot (France)	10	–	15
Julian Jackson (Virgin Islands)	**–**	**C**	**–**
John Mugabi (Uganda)	–	1	1
Francisco Lisboa (Indonesia)	11	5	–
Jorge Castro (Argentina)	12	7	5
Buster Drayton (US)	–	9	16
Jun-Sok Hwang (Korea)	–	10	23
Donald Curry (US)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Duane Thomas (US)	–	–	7
Miguel Arroyo (Argentina)	–	–	8
Al Long (US)	–	–	9
Chris Pyatt (England)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Simon Brown (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Al Long (US)	1	–	–
Tyrone Trice (US)	2	10	11
Marlon Starling (US)	3	3	2
Jorge Maysonet (Puerto Rico)	4	–	15
Manning Galloway (US)	5	6	26
Bobby Joe Young (US)	6	–	–
Mark Breland (US)	7	1	3
Jean Fontana (France)	8	–	22
Robert Rucker (US)	9	–	–
Aaron Davis (US)	10	–	17
Tomas Molinares (Colombia)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Seung-Soon Lee (Korea)	–	2	4
Maurice Blocker (US)	–	5	5
Fujio Ozaki (Japan)	–	4	10
Yung-Kil Chung (Korea)	–	7	1
Luis Garcia (Venezuela)	–	8	19
Kirkland Laing (England)	–	9	9
Lloyd Honeyghan (England)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Mauro Martelli (Switzerland)	11	–	6
Derrick Kelly (US)	–	–	7
Helio Santana (Brazil)	–	–	8

JR. WELTERWEIGHT/ SUPER LIGHTWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Meldrick Taylor (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Jong Jung Pacquining (Philippines)	1	10	–
Buddy McGirt (US)	2	–	11
John Meekins (US)	3	5	5
Frankie Warren (US)	4	–	14
Vinny Pazienza (US)	5	–	9
Courtney Hooper (US)	6	–	–
Frankie Randall (US)	7	–	7
Harold Brazier (US)	8	3	2
Thomas N'Kalankete (France)	9	8	19
Rodolfo Aquilar (Panama)	10	7	–
Juan Coggi (Argentina)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Akinobu Hiranaka (Japan)	–	1	6
Kyung-Duk Ahn (Korea)	–	2	3
Mike Johnson (US)	–	4	–
Engels Pedroza (Venezuela)	–	6	20
Vincent Releford (US)	–	9	29
Roger Mayweather (US)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Rene Arredondo (Mexico)	–	–	1
Cassius Clay Horn (US)	–	–	4
Mauricio Rodriguez (US)	–	–	8
Genaro Leon (Mexico)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Greg Haugen (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Pernell Whitaker (US)	1	1	2
Edwin Rosario (Puerto Rico)	2	2	4
Fred Pendleton (US)	3	–	6
Angel Hernandez (Puerto Rico)	4	7	5
Amancio Castro (Colombia)	5	–	10
Louie Lomeli (US)	6	5	14
Rafael Pineda (Colombia)	7	3	3
Livingstone Bramble (US)	8	–	23
Miguel Santana (Puerto Rico)	9	–	30
Rolando Navarrete (Philippines)	10	–	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (Mexico)	**–**	**C**	**1**
Jose Luis Ramirez (Mexico)	**–**	**4**	**C**
John Duplessis (US)	–	6	11
Anthony Jones (US)	12	8	–
Alberto Cortes (Argentina)	–	9	8
Chil-Sung Chun (Korea)	–	10	9
Lester Ellis (Australia)	–	–	7

JR. LIGHTWEIGHT/ SUPER FEATHERWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Tony Lopez (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Tyrone Jackson (US)	1	2	6
Harold Knight (US)	2	8	5
Rocky Lockridge (US)	3	–	9
Juan LaPorte (US)	4	–	8
Ariel Duran (Philippines)	5	–	–
Felipe Orozco (Colombia)	6	–	–
Barry McGuigan (Ireland)	7	6	2
John John Molina (Puerto Rico)	8	–	–
Mario Martinez (Mexico)	9	1	1
Jean Baptiste Mendy (France)	10	7	–
Brian Mitchell (South Africa)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mario Miranda (Colombia)	–	3	3
Jose Rivera (Puerto Rico)	–	4	11
Jackie Beard (US)	–	5	16
Jim McDonnell (England)	–	9	10
Rene Weller (Germany)	–	10	–
Azumah Nelson (Ghana)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Lupe Suarez (US)	–	–	4
Johnny de la Rosa (Dominican Rep.)	–	–	7

FEATHERWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Jorge Paez (Mexico)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Calvin Grove (US)	1	–	24
Hector Lopez (US)	2	5	1
George Navarro (US)	3	–	2
Jeff Franklin (US)	4	–	15
Bernard Taylor (US)	5	–	6
Samart Payakaroon (Thailand)	6	–	9
Mauricio Stecca (Italy)	7	3	3
Jean Marc Renard (Belgium)	8	7	13
Miguel Francia (Argentina)	9	–	17

IBF as of November

WBA as of November

WBC as of October

Steve Cruz (US)	10	–	20
Antonio Esparragoza (Venezuela)	–	**C**	–
Jose Marmolejos (Panama)	–	1	–
Valerio Nati (Italy)	–	2	–
Marcos Villasana (Mexico)	–	4	4
Mitsuru Sugiya (Japan)	–	6	–
Tyrone Downes (Barbados)	–	8	5
Byung-Soo Park (Korea)	–	9	8
Sidnei Dal Rovere (Brazil)	11	10	10
Jeff Fenech (Australia)	–	–	**C**
Robert Rivera (Puerto Rico)	–	–	7

JR. FEATHERWEIGHT/ SUPER BANTAMWEIGHT	**IBF**	**WBA**	**WBC**
Jose Sanabria (US)	**C**	–	–
Manuel Miranda (Puerto Rico)	1	–	–
Ramon Cruz (Puerto Rico)	2	–	–
Louie Espinoza (US)	3	3	5
Vincenzo Belcastro (Italy)	4	–	–
Fabrice Benichou (France)	5	–	–
Jesse Benavides (US)	6	–	13
Thierry Jacob (France)	7	–	–
Jesus Poll (US)	8	2	4
Steve McCrory (US)	9	–	6
Pedro Decima (Argentina)	10	10	9
Juan Jose Estrada (Mexico)	–	**C**	–
Julio Gervacio (Dominican Rep.)	–	1	17
Paul Banke (US)	–	4	11
Loris Stecca (Italy)	–	5	3
Mark Horikoshi (Japan)	–	6	7
Orlando Fernandez (Puerto Rico)	–	7	29
Renaldo Carter (US)	–	8	25
Carlos Uribe (Chile)	–	9	26
Daniel Zaragoza (Mexico)	–	–	**C**
Seung-Hoon Lee (Korea)	–	–	1
Valerio Nati (Italy)	12	–	2
Takuya Muguruma (Japan)	–	–	8
Lucio Lopez (Argentina)	–	–	10

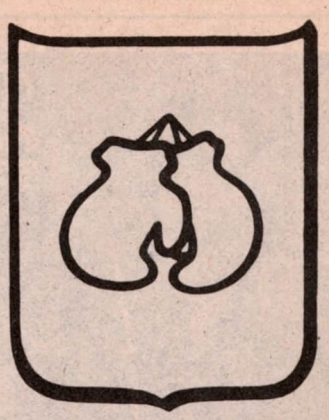
BANTAMWEIGHT	**IBF**	**WBA**	**WBC**
Orlando Canizales (US)	**C**	–	–
Jimmy Navarro (US)	1	–	–
Miguel Lora (Colombia)	**2**	**4**	**C**
Kelvin Seabrooks (US)	3	–	18
Ken Mitchell (US)	4	6	22
Hurley Snead (US)	5	7	3
Cardenio Ulloa (Chile)	6	3	1
Ray Minus (Bahamas)	7	–	12
Luisito Espinoza (Philippines)	8	–	8
Roland Gomez (US)	9	–	–
Simon Skosana (South Africa)	10	–	–
Sung-Kil Moon (Korea)	–	**C**	–
Edgar Monserrat (Panama)	–	1	5
Kaokor Galaxy (Thailand)	–	2	30
Wilfredo Vasquez (Puerto Rico)	–	5	7
Chun Huh (Korea)	–	8	4
Frankie Duarte (US)	11	9	16
Lorimer Pontino (Philippines)	–	10	29
Raul Perez (Mexico)	–	–	2
Israel Contreras (Venezuela)	–	–	6
Alberto Davila (US)	–	–	9
Chang-Kyun Oh (Korea)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHT/ SUPER FLYWEIGHT	**IBF**	**WBA**	**WBC**
Elly Pical (Indonesia)	**C**	–	–
Juan Polo (Colombia)	1	–	4
Armando Castro (Mexico)	2	–	8
Welcome Ncita (South Africa)	3	–	–
Thanomsak Sithbaobey (Thailand)	4	3	3
Peter Mitrevski (Australia)	5	–	–
Nana Konadu (Ghana)	6	–	–
Mike Phelps (US)	7	–	–
William Ramos (Puerto Rico)	8	–	–
Ki-Chang Kim (Korea)	9	–	–
Ramon Medel (US)	10	–	–
Kaosai Galaxy (Thailand)	–	**C**	–
Alberto Castro (Colombia)	11	1	10
Juan Carazo (Puerto Rico)	–	2	1
Sugar Rojas (Colombia)	–	4	2
Tae-Il Chang (Korea)	–	5	7
Santos Laciar (Argentina)	–	6	5
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (Japan)	–	7	9
Chiaki Kobayashi (Japan)	–	8	15
Ernesto Ford (Panama)	–	9	24
Cobra Ari Blanca (Philippines)	–	10	26
Gilberto Roman (Mexico)	–	–	**C**
Ruben Condori (Argentina)	–	–	6

FLYWEIGHT	**IBF**	**WBA**	**WBC**
Duke McKenzie (England)	**C**	–	–
Dodie Penalosa (Philippines)	1	–	10
Sot Chitalada (Japan)	2	–	1
Rolando Bohol (Philippines)	3	–	27
Daorung Chuwatana (Thailand)	4	–	–
Kenji Matsumura (Japan)	5	3	12
Elvis Alvarez (Colombia)	6	–	–
Jose Ruiz (Puerto Rico)	7	–	–
Naphai Narachavat (Thailand)	8	–	–
Richard Clarke (Jamaica)	9	8	3
Juan Carazo (Puerto Rico)	10	–	–
Fidel Bassa (Colombia)	–	**C**	–
Hilario Zapata (Panama)	–	1	13
Miguel Mercedes (Dominican Rep.)	12	2	2
Leopard Tamakuma (Japan)	–	4	4
Emil Matsushima (Japan)	–	5	7
Adrian Roman (Argentina)	–	6	5
Rafael Cabrera (Dominican Rep.)	–	7	22
Ray Medel (US)	–	9	23
Yun-In Chin (Korea)	–	10	21
Yong-Kang Kim (Korea)	–	–	**C**
Javier Lucas (Mexico)	–	–	6
Yul-Woo Lee (Korea)	–	–	8
Nana Konadu (Ghana)	–	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHT/ LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	**IBF**	**WBA**	**WBC**
Tacy Macalos (Philippines)	**C**	–	**16**
Mario DeMarco (Argentina)	1	2	13
Isidro Perez (Mexico)	2	–	4
Humberto Gonzalez (Mexico)	3	1	2
Francisco Tejedor (Colombia)	4	5	5
Tony DeLuca (US)	5	–	–
German Torres (Mexico)	6	–	1
Jose DeJesus (Puerto Rico)	7	3	6
Pedro Feliciano (Puerto Rico)	8	–	–
Willy Salazar (Mexico)	9	–	–
Muangshai Kittikasem (Thailand)	10	–	10
Myung-Woo Yuh (Korea)	–	**C**	–
Rodolfo Blanco (Colombia)	–	4	7
Udin Beharrudin (Indonesia)	–	6	–
Jesus Rojas (Venezuela)	12	7	17
Armando Velasco (Mexico)	–	8	–
Katsumi Komiyama (Japan)	–	9	8
Sun-Yong Chang (Korea)	–	10	18
Jung-Koo Chang (Korea)	–	–	**C**
Soon-Joon Kang (Korea)	–	–	3
Jorge Cano (Mexico)	11	–	9

MINI FLY/MINIMUMWEIGHT/ STRAWWEIGHT	**IBF**	**WBA**	**WBC**
Samuth Sithnarvelpol (Thailand)	**C**	–	–
Eric Chavez (Philippines)	1	–	11
Boy Lucas (Philippines)	2	–	4
Kajkong Danpoothai (Thailand)	3	–	13
Santiago Mendez (Mexico)	4	–	5
John Arief (Indonesia)	5	–	–
Efren Pinto (Mexico)	6	–	12
Luis Monzote (US)	7	–	–
Nico Thomas (Indonesia)	8	–	17
Javier Varquez (Mexico)	9	–	6
Chana Paointr (Thailand)	10	–	–
Rafael Gamez (Venezuela)	–	**C**	–
Bong-Jun Kim (Korea)	–	1	–
Agustin Garcia (Colombia)	–	2	–
Tony DeLuca (US)	–	3	–
Sam-Joong Lee (Korea)	–	4	16
Jose Lagos (Argentina)	–	5	8
Ha-Shik Lim (Korea)	–	6	–
Kyung-Yung Lee (Korea)	–	7	2
Trang T. Boonlert (Thailand)	–	8	25
Hideyuki Ohashi (Japan)	–	9	–
Benedicto Murillo (Panama)	–	10	–
Hiroki Ioka (Japan)	–	–	**C**
Nana Katwanchai (Thailand)	–	–	1
Sung-Woo Lee (Korea)	–	–	3
Ricardo Lopez (Mexico)	–	–	7
Hi-Yong Choi (Korea)	–	–	9
Francisco Montiel (Mexico)	11	–	10



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ASK THE ANSWERMAN

by Phill Marder

Once in awhile, a question comes in that "The Answerman" just can't answer. That's why we call him "The Answerman" and not "Mr. Know-It-All." But "The Answerman" hasn't ignored those queries. They were saved — saved for the day when there would be enough to give "The Answerman" a month off. That day has come. This month, it's your turn to work as you try to solve "Answerman Anchors," or questions that have dragged "The Answerman" down. If you know the answer to one of this month's questions, send it in and help set a fellow-reader straight. We'll print the answers in future columns.

Q: Can you please tell me where I can write to Max Schmeling. Is Primo Carnera still living?

CHRIS HAHN
Canada

A: *Primo Carnera died in Italy in 1967. What we need is an address for Max Schmeling.*

Q: I would like to know the ring record of Jimmy Soo, a lightweight from Philadelphia who fought around 1953.

GEORGE OLKUS
Philadelphia

Q: I would like to know the nationalities of the following boxers: Kid Koster, 118, New Orleans (1920s); Joe Mandot, 135, New Orleans (1910s); Pepper Martin, 126, New York (1920s); Al "Red" Priest, 160, Boston (1950); Bobby Josephs, 118, Boston (1920s); Tony Vatlin, 135, Boston (1920s); Joe Bernal, 147, San Francisco (1930s).

ANTHONY FERRANTE
New Jersey

Q: I have been an ardent reader of *The Ring* for 50 years and a collector of ring history. Recently, I have become interested in the record of a fighter named Pat O'Grady, who fought in the mid-west in the early 1950s. Some of his bouts are mentioned in *The Ring* of February, 1950, but there is no mention of him in *The Ring Record Books* of 1950, 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1959. I would like to obtain his complete record, if possible. I have met Sean a number of times.

GEORGE O'REILLY
Philadelphia

Q: Can you please give me any information at all on boxing manager Bobby Nelson (Andrew Lapaglia), who managed Joe Micelli and Eddie Dixon in the 1950s. You see, Bobby was my grandfather.

J.R. SIMONTACCHI
New York

Q: My uncle was a fighter in the 1930s. His name is Kenneth Johnson. He called himself "The Texas Kid." I would appreciate some information on him, what kind of style he had, his record, was he a big puncher, etc.

JIM McDONALD
Indiana

A: *And we hope the September, 1988 issue cleared up your question about Kid Chocolate, Jim.*

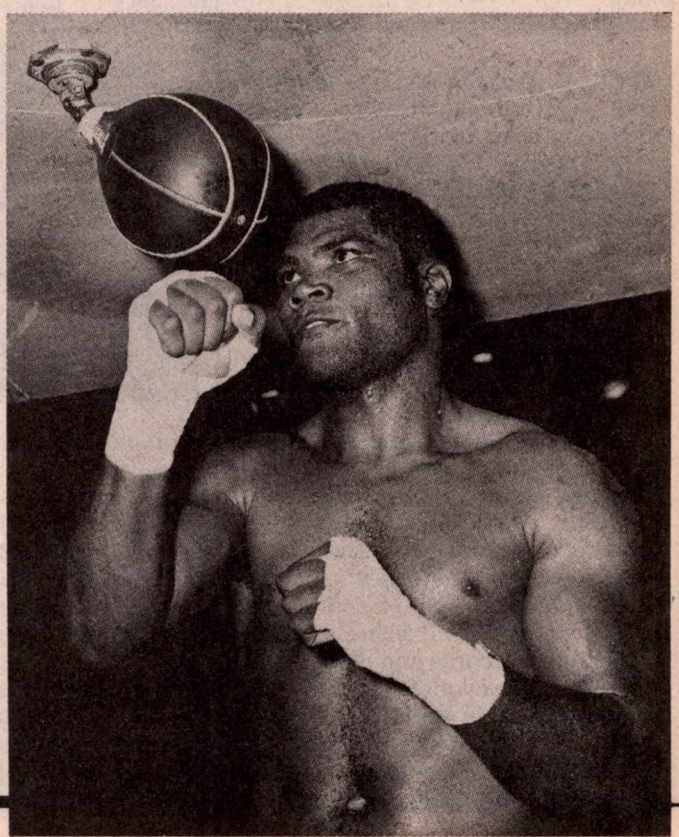
Q: Could you provide some information on a fighter named Chick Young, who supposedly was from the mid-west and fought Ceferino Garcia some years back?

ANTHONY FERRERA
Florida

Q: In your July issue, a boxer's name appeared in the article about Mike Tyson in Japan. The name I am speaking of is Mac Foster. It has been many years since I've heard anything about Mac, who was a top contender in the heavyweight division in the 1970s. What has become of him? There are some Nova Scotia fight fans and friends who would love to hear from him.

GLORIA BORDEN
Nova Scotia

There you have it, a collection of "Unsolved Mysteries." If you know the answer, or answers, contact The Ring and help out a fellow reader and we'll print the responses right here in this column. Meanwhile, *The Answerman* is working on answers for next month's column on questions by William Dunkle, Rockin' Ron and Chuck McMath of California, Don Jasso of Montana, Peter Tomlinson of Canada and Duke's Pub in Oklahoma, among others. Never ceases to amaze me how these watering holes learn to write. □



Reader Gloria Borden of Nova Scotia wants to know what former heavyweight contender Mac Foster is doing these days. Are you out there, Mac?

VETERAN BOXERS BEAT

by Angelo Prospero

DEL FLANAGAN STARTED AS A LIGHTweight and campaigned brilliantly in three divisions from 1947 until 1964.

How many fighters can you think of who won 100 fights and never received a title shot? Del might be the only one. He had 130 bouts, winning 108, losing 21 (several in his last year of fighting), drawing once and scoring 34 knockouts. He won his first 52 bouts and was a top 10 fighter for a decade. He met 11 world champions, defeating seven of them: Sandy Saddler, Beau Jack, Johnny Saxton, Johnny Bratton, Kid Gavilan, Virgil Akins and Willie Pastrano.

One of Flanagan's biggest wins was his upset of Alan Moody, protege of Sam Pian and Art Winch, who guided Tony Zale. A 2-1 underdog, Flanagan kayoed Moody in seven rounds.

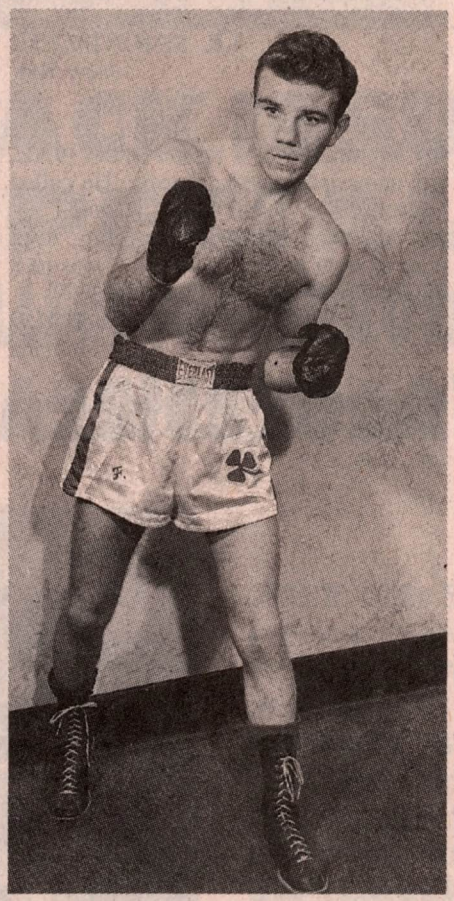
Del also beat Jackie Graves, Carlos Chavez, Arthur King, Gil Turner, Al Andrews and Lester Felton. He met Gene Fullmer, Joey Giardello, Jimmy Carter, Ralph Dupas, Tommy Campbell and George Araujo.

Flanagan fought in Bangkok, London, Johannesburg and Glace Bay, Canada.

He was the brother of the late Glen Flanagan, also a very active fighter of the same era. Del Flanagan unquestionably would have been a champion today.

Next Month — Johnny Cesario.

Del Flanagan



VETERAN BOXER NOTES: Hall of Fame — a term synonymous with excellence in many fields of endeavor, including boxing. It's easy for baseball, football, basketball, etc. to have a single Hall of Fame because they are unified sports, unlike boxing, which is fragmented and at times, violently divisive. Nat Fleischer, founder of *The Ring*, devised the original Hall of Fame concept in the 1950s and selections have been made yearly. From time to time, other so called Halls of Fame for boxing have appeared in all shapes, sizes and forms. There's one in Los Angeles, another in Louisville, a proposed one in Las Vegas, an abortive one in Atlantic City.

Boxing doesn't need another Hall of Fame, which presupposes elections, voting, arguments over selections, etc. It needs a museum where artifacts, memorabilia, records and libraries can be displayed, used and researched.

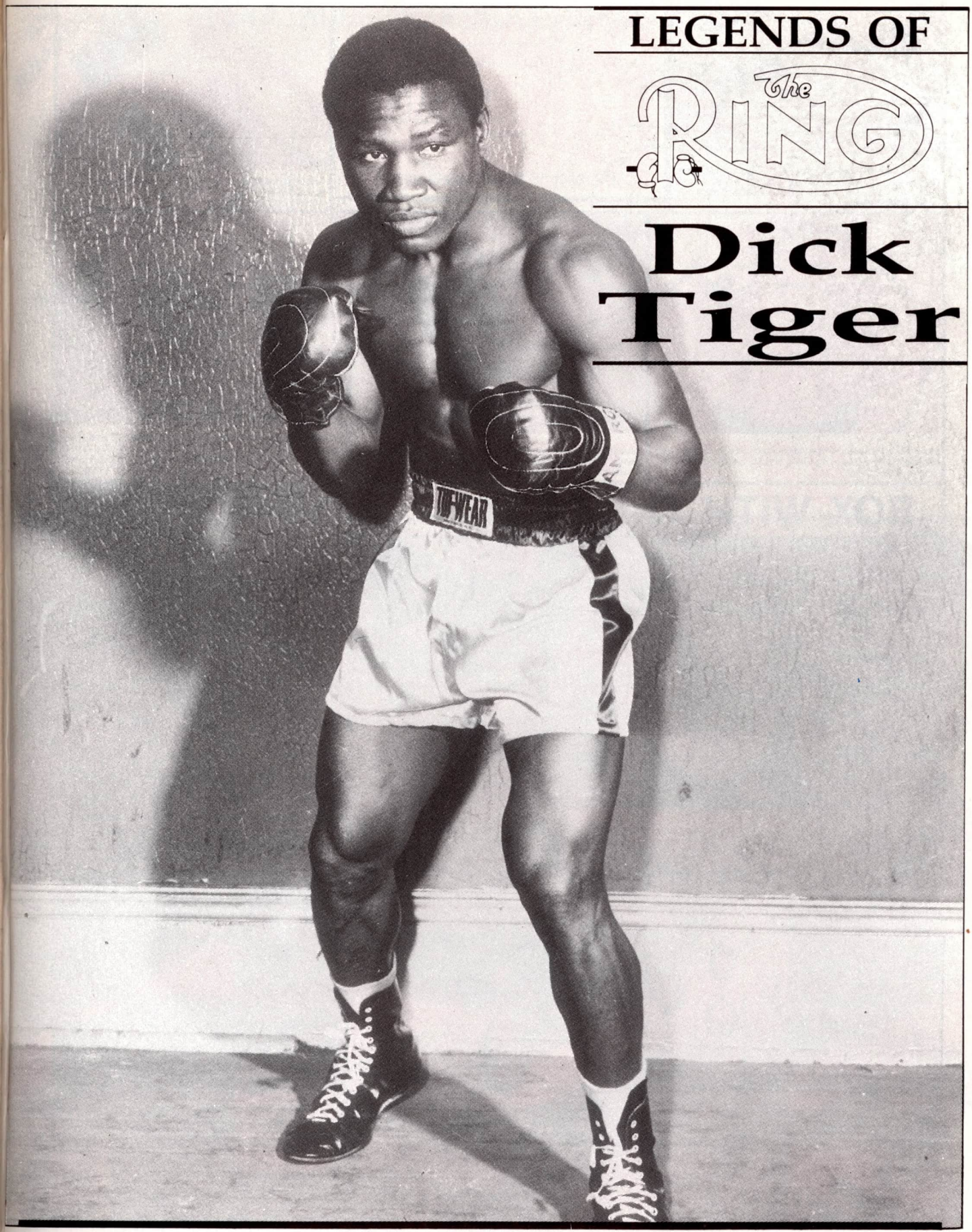
Such a place is being developed in Canastota, New York, birthplace of early high school boxing teams plus champions Carmen Basilio and Billy Backus.

Construction is almost complete on the edifice and should be open in the spring according to director Ed Brophy, who has been collecting memorabilia now for three years around the country. It will have a comprehensive collection in addition to an outstanding library of magazines, books, records, tapes and films... Melio Bettina, former light heavyweight champ, has recovered nicely from a heart attack in his Beacon, New York home... The Los Angeles Hall of Fame inducted Joey Maxim, Willie Pastrano, Mando Ramos, Enrique Bolanos and Ingemar Johansson, while Johnny Addie, Gus Lesnevich, Lou Brouillard, Fred Apostoli, Flash Elorde and Salvatore Sanchez were honored posthumously at their annual banquet. Many in the Cleveland, Ohio area were disappointed again when favorite son Jimmy Bivins was not selected... Eddie Swider, active in Veteran Boxing circles in Syracuse, N.Y. and who also ran a gym there, passed away at age 79... Jackie Donnelly of Buffalo, N.Y., at one time a ranking lightweight, has a large library of boxing clippings covering several decades... Joe Matisi, Endicott, N.Y. slugger who met Ezzard Charles and other top heavyweights in the 1940s, is seriously ill... New officers of the National Veteran Boxers Assn. are Buddy Hayes of Ring 4 in Boston; Jack Campbell, Charley Nevins and Danny Wambolt, vice presidents and Ruth Nolan, secretary. They were elected at the group's annual meeting at Kerhonksen, N.Y. Next year's affair may be in San Francisco... Ring 72 of Northern California held its annual dinner dance at the Sheraton Inn in Burlingame, California... Donnie Nodecker was re-elected President of Ring 7 ... Carmen Fatta and Petey Virgin were honored guests as Ring 26 of Schenectady, N.Y. held its annual picnic. If you check *The Ring Record Book* of 1944, you will see that Petey Virgin had more fights that year than any other pugilist in the United States... Former middleweight of the Golden Age of Boxing, Jackie Keough of Cleveland, is president of the Ohio State Former Boxers Assn.... Gene "Silent" Hairston was honored by the National Technical Institute of the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology. Because of Gene's handicap, red lights were installed on the ringposts at Madison Square Garden. At one time, Hairston was the third ranked middleweight in the world. He currently resides in New York City... Former Buffalo lightweights Dick Terpinko and Vince Cala tour Western and Central New York giving exhibitions and clinics for youthful amateur boxers... Sam Canzoneri has written a screenplay and hopes to star Ray "Boom-Boom" Mancini in the title role of his cousin, Tony Canzoneri, who at one time in the late 20s and early 30s rivaled Jack Dempsey as the most idolized fighter in the world. □

LEGENDS OF

The RING

Dick Tiger



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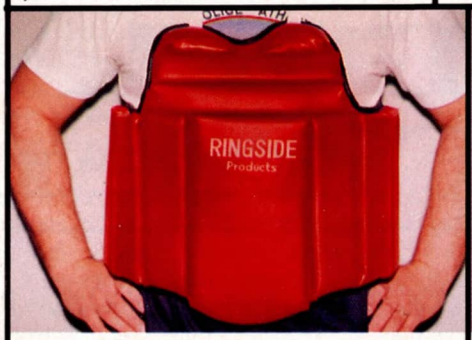

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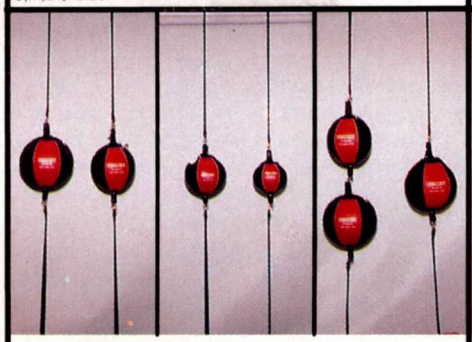

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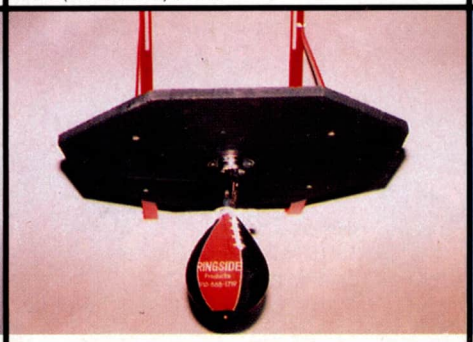

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